

Dudley CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 21, 2018

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Charity considers legal action over change in policy **DISABLED 'DENIED WHEELCHAIRS'**

Report by Dayna Farrington

PEOPLE with disabilities in Dudley are being refused wheelchairs, according to campaigners.

The charity We Love Carers claims people who are mobile enough to walk around their homes unaided no longer qualify for a wheelchair due to new criteria introduced by health bosses.

The group has launched a Crowd Justice page, which has already raised nearly £2,000, to fund legal action as they believe disabled people have not been listened to.

Rachael Gardner's 14-year-old twin sons Harry and Thomas were born with profound disabilities but she says Harry has been refused a wheelchair when he had been provided with one before.

Rachel, who founded the Dudley-based We Love Carers, said that as a result her son was being forced to use a wheelchair that was too small for him.

Notified

She said: "We as a charity got notified of the criteria changes towards the end of last year and it basically seems if you can walk in the house, you don't need a chair outside of the house. This affects a lot of people in Dudley."

"My son can walk but for longer distances it's difficult. His joints can swell up and cause him a lot of pain."

"I know a lot of parents of children and adults who need the chairs have now been refused. It takes away their independence. A lot of people were unaware of the change of policy. A lot of parents are now afraid to go to the wheelchair assessments because they are scared their children will have them taken off them."

Neill Bucktin, a director at Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We believe that the concerns raised relate to the application of the eligibility criteria by two different service providers. Our policy has always sought to ensure those who are immobile have access to a wheelchair that meets their mobility needs."

"Each person is assessed to understand their mobility needs once a referral to the service is made. Dudley CCG has met with We Love Carers previously and we will be offering another meeting to discuss these concerns."

I'M A CELEBRITY STAR AND DAUGHTER AT ZOO WALK



I'm A Celebrity star Rebekah Vardy and three-year-old daughter Sophia took part in the Big Toddle for Barnardo's at Dudley Zoo

I'm A Celebrity star Rebekah Vardy and her three-year-old daughter Sophia joined forces with a Teletubbie to take part in a sponsored walk at Dudley Zoo.

The wife of England and Leicester City footballer Jamie Vardy put her best foot forward with her daughter for the launch of Barnardo's Big Toddle at the Castle Hill attraction, just a few days before jetting to Russia to support her husband at the World Cup.

Rebekah and Sophia were joined by Po from the Teletubbies and more than 100 under-fives and their families at the sponsored walk last week. The Big Toddle sees thousands of under-fives and their families take part in a short walk to raise funds for Barnardo's. This year's theme of nature saw lots of those taking part dressing up as animals, insects, flowers and jungle creatures.

Barnardo's ambassador Rebekah said:

"It was wonderful to see so many little ones and their families smiling away and toddling around the route together."

"It was great fun being at the zoo and it was really fitting for the nature theme."

"It's brilliant to know that so many families were enjoying themselves together but especially great knowing that it is to benefit a good cause."

COURT

Plea date for man charged with murder

A 44-year-old man has appeared in court charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder.

Karl Glancey, of Tivdale, was detained under the Mental Health Act following the death of Martin Biggs, 47, who was found with stab wounds at an address in Corngreaves Walk, Cradley Heath, on November 12. The defendant faces two counts of attempted murder and one of wounding in connection with incidents in Cradley Heath and Tivdale. He was remanded in custody at Birmingham Crown Court, to appear for plea hearing on August 3.

COUNCIL

Huge increase in fines for littering

A MAJOR clampdown on littering in Dudley borough has resulted in a huge increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

For March, April and May this year over 1,092 notices have been issued compared with just 14 for the same period last year. Kingdom Enforcement Services, made up of ex-police and military personnel with body cameras, started patrolling in March.

HEALTH

St John Ambulance loses Brierley Hill HQ

ST John Ambulance is to close its base in Brierley Hill after 125 years.

The centre in Bent Street has been put up for sale and volunteers will now have to deliver life-saving training elsewhere. Youth leader Lee Batham said the children's group have been able to secure Pensnett Community Centre but the adult group has not yet found an alternative.

INSIDE

IN THE PINK AT RACE FOR LIFE



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6,000 trees axed across Black Country

MORE than 6,000 trees have been lost in the Black Country over the past three years and more than half were cut down by Dudley Council.

The authority, which has no replanting programme, spent £684,000 taking down the trees from 2014 to 2017.

A total of 6,359 have been felled across the Black Country in the time, a Freedom of Information request has revealed.

Campaigners fear many others have also been lost through private felling in the same period.

Dudley cut down 3,227 trees, Sandwell axed 2,070, Walsall 901 and Wolverhampton 161.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member

for environmental services said: "Trees play an important role in our communities, filtering air, acting as a haven for wildlife, creating attractive landscapes and generally contributing to community wellbeing, which is why we only fell trees that pose a high risk to people or property."

"Many of the trees felled are self sets and have not been specifically planted. We will also consider felling if the tree is diseased, damaged, dangerous or dying."

"We don't have a replacement programme as such, but we would encourage landowners such as private tenants, schools and businesses to replace their own stock. We do seek sponsorship ourselves

to invest in new tree stock at suitable locations, such as the 70 plus trees we planted with the help of local businesses on Birmingham New Road."

The council uses Midland Forestry to carry out all tree maintenance work and plants new trees using council resources. Trees can be protected by Tree Preservation Orders. Trees within conservation areas require a planning application to remove them.

Andi Mohr, chairman of the West Midlands Green Party, said: "When we have 3,000 people a year dying early in the West Midlands because of our dirty air, it's madness to remove so many trees that clean our air."

Veterans on parade for extra special Forces Day

IT'S a centenary special at this year's Armed Forces Day, with the Dudley Council event set to mark 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force and the end of the First World War during next weekend's event at Himley Hall and its grounds.

Run in association with Black Country Housing Group, the Himley Hall and Park event will celebrate the work of service men and women past and present on Sunday, July 1, from 11am to 5pm.

Entertainment for all the family includes vintage fairground rides, Punch and Judy shows, the Bluebird Belles vocal harmony trio and RAF Cosford Voluntary Band.

Veterans will be presented with their medals and badges and there will be a display of current and historic military vehicles.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor said: "This special event gives us the chance to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by those who have served and those who continue to serve in the Armed Forces."

He added: "It is also a wonderful event with a carnival atmosphere and there is something for all ages to enjoy."

For more information people visit www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk/armedforcesday

Doctor's car stolen by cat flap burglars

AN on-call doctor's car was stolen after burglars broke into his Black Country home - taking his keys and also his hospital pass. in the early hours.

Dr Ahmed Gilani, who works on the intensive care unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, discovered his black Mini Cooper, wallet and hospital pass had been stolen from his home in Tividale in the early hours of Tuesday (June 12). Police believe the burglar or burglars got into the house via the cat flap.

Dr Gilani said: "It was a complete shock, I wasn't expecting something like this to happen to me."

"I normally wake up at 5am and do my normal routine, but I noticed that everything was a bit odd. When I realised that people had been rummaging around I then realised my keys were missing and that's when I called the police."

The intensive care doctor has now had to go on leave and is concerned about its effect on his job

Crisis

"The NHS is already in a crisis when it comes to doctors and it's not easy to find replacements so it had a knock-on effect with my work," he said.

"They also took my wallet and with that my hospital pass so it's extremely concerning vulnerable people in the hospital could have been in danger but I made sure that was the first thing I cancelled."

"There's also the worry about them having my identity, it's extremely concerning. I'm still waiting on a replacement car and there's the added



Dr Ahmed Gilani outside his home showing a screenshot of his stolen Mini, which was driven off by a burglar or burglars

stress of cancelling all my debit cards and there's a host of things to worry about, especially as it's affected my work."

Dr Gilani, who has lived alone at the address in Oldbury for the past two years, added: "The emotional aspect is also very concerning. I have this nagging worry about being in my

own home and whether I'm safe, and whether my belongings are safe. I'm usually a resilient person."

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "Police were called to reports of a burglary at a property on Fairway Avenue sometime between 9pm on June 11 and 5am on June 12. "It is believed entry was gained

into the house via the cat flap. wThey have searched the property before leaving with a wallet and a black Mini Cooper from the drive."

"Investigations are on-going and anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101 quoting crime reference number 20SW/130673Q/18."

Storage firm plan unit for Merry Hill

SELF storage group Safestore is planning to open a new site in the Black Country.

The unit at Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, is due to open in April, subject to planning permission being obtained.

The Sun Works land would be used for units to rent to private individuals and firms. The site has been derelict since steel firm Bird Stevens went into administration in March 2016.

Safestore, which has an existing site at Oldbury, saw revenue rise 10.5 per cent to £69.2 million for the six months to the end of April with pre-tax profit up 48.9 per cent to £81.9m.

It has plans for four units to open over the next 18 months.

Safestore, founded 20 years ago, is the UK's largest self storage group with 146

Forums meeting

LATEST community forum meetings: Monday, Coseley East/Sedgley at Christchurch C of E Primary School; Tuesday, Amblecote, Cradley, Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge at Lye Community Centre; Gornal/Woodseton at Baggeridge Social. All at 6.30pm.

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Site visit is due on gym and housing application

DOZENS of new homes and a gym could be built along one of the busiest routes in Dudley borough but the plans are facing opposition.

The redevelopment of the Fitness4Less site on Thorns Road in Quarry Bank could see 14 apartments and 19 townhouses created along the road, near the Merry Hill shopping centre. The route is used by around 24,000 vehicles a day.

Applicants Fitness4Less – which already runs a gym at the site – say the existing gym requires ‘significant redevelopment’.

Dudley Council bosses say a site visit has been planned following objections to the plans from nearby residents who fear further traffic congestion, lack of parking and loss of privacy.

Mohammed Hanif, Lye and Stourbridge North ward councillor, said: “There is definitely objections there – I received quite a few. I’m going to visit it and we are going to discuss it from there.

“I will be listening very carefully to the residents in Grosvenor Way, where they are hoping to make the entrance through a very residential area. Parking is very limited and people are already struggling.”

The applicants says the redevelopment would help to reduce the Black Country shortfall of housing, create jobs and boost health via the gym.

Fundraising for Tom has hit £27k

A fundraising page set up in memory of teenage rugby player Tom Mole has hit an incredible £27,000 for Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

Fourteen-year-old Tom, a member of Stourbridge Rugby Club under-14s, died suddenly in April after a short illness. In his memory, players, coaches and fans from the club will be taking part in a Walk for Tom on Saturday at 10am starting at the hospital – where Tom was treated – and taking a 20-mile route to the club’s Stourton Park ground. Coach Mark Denison said it was ‘fantastic’ to see how much support the walk was received so far.

Tom from Wollaston, was a pupil at the Oldswinford Hospital school. Visit justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14 to donate.

Irish duo in concert

IRISH folk duo Mick Foster and Tony Allen will be performing in Dudley. Foster and Allen are in concert at Dudley Town Hall on November 16. Tickets £26.50. Call (01384) 812812.

Two per cent pay rise for council officers



Sarah Norman now paid £166,650

SENIOR officers at Dudley Council will see their combined pay packets increase by more than £20,000 after local government employers and trade union officials agreed an improved national pay offer.

The increase will see the total wage bill for the chief executive Sarah Norman, and 10 other directors, rise to £1,198,399 a year after the deal is agreed by the local authority.

Overall, the executive wage bill at Dudley Council will increase by £30,000 when including employer’s national insurance contributions and

superannuation. The pay increase brings senior officers in line with other council staff, who also agreed a two per cent increase for the next two years.

Sarah Norman’s pay will now rise to £169,983 from £166,650, backdated to April this year.

The trade union for local authority senior officers, ALACE, accepted a revised pay offer of two per cent for this year and next after rejecting an initial offer of only one per cent.

Accepting the offer on behalf of her members Tracey Lee, chair of

ALACE, said: “We warmly welcome the improved offer from the employers, which we have accepted at once. We are grateful for the employers’ further consideration of our claim following the initial offer in April which ALACE was not able to accept.”

Councillor Simon Phipps, Dudley Council’s cabinet member for human resources, said: “The council participates in national pay bargaining. The offer of a two per cent increase for senior officers is in line with the pay increase already agreed for other staff.”

New policy after baby's death may save others

PARAMEDICS called out to babies aged 12 months and under now have to take them to hospital to be seen by a consultant, following the death of a six-week old baby in Dudley earlier this year.

The change in policy was confirmed during an inquest on Sienna Helen James at the Black Country Coroner’s Court last week.

The inquest heard that Sienna’s mother, Nichola Ray, from Stourbridge, had called West Midlands Ambulance on the evening of Saturday, February 10, after her baby started crying out in pain and nothing could be done to ease her distress.

Paramedic Matthew Floyd and trainee paramedic Beth Anslow carried out checks and found nothing untoward and advised the family to take her in their own car to the Urgent Care Centre at Russells Hall Hospital – as they felt it would be quicker for them to do so.

The following night Sienna’s parents fed her and put her to bed, but on the morning of Monday, February 12, she had died.

Pathologist Tamas Marton recorded a medical cause of death as unascertained, a term used for sudden infant death syndrome or cot death.

Investigation

Joanne Kavanagh, who carried out an investigation for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said as a result of the case patients aged under 12 months now had to be reviewed by a consultant at hospital.

Ms Ray, giving evidence at the inquest, said Sienna had been a generally healthy baby, born in December 2017, but on the Saturday she had noticed a rash on her face.

She said: “The first week of February she had been fine and on the Saturday night before she passed away she was in pain and crying. I called an ambulance out to her that evening. They checked her over and said it was stomach ache.

“I was not really reassured. I did everything to comfort her but it did not help and she was still crying. Then on the Sunday she had her last feed at about 12.30am and went to sleep. We woke at 4.45am and that is when we found her passed away.”

Paramedic Matthew Floyd said they had arrived



Baby Sienna Helen James died aged just six weeks

at around 7.30pm on Saturday to carry out an assessment on Sienna. He said they were told that she was quite unsettled through the day and then all the tests and observations they carried out were normal. He added that the only abnormality was a slight rash on the right side of her jaw.

Ms Kavanagh told the inquest that a highest level investigation was launched after baby Sienna’s death.

She said: “Better history of both mother and baby should have been taken. Looking at the appropriate history, age of patient, crew experience and experience of mother suggested that the patient needed further assessment.

“As a result of this case, those under 12 months have to be reviewed by a consultant. She should have gone into hospital and there would have been that safety net there.”

Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique recorded an open conclusion into the death of Sienna and offered his condolences to the family. He said: “It has been



Sienna's parents Nichola Ray and Richard James

accepted it would have been safer to take child to hospital because of policies which have now been enforced. Lessons have been learnt, further recommendations and learning has been given.

“It is not clear to me what the cause of death was – it could have been cot death or sudden infant death syndrome. Having heard all of the evidence I record an open conclusion.”

Father Richard James said: “If they had taken her to hospital she might have still been here – she would have had a better chance.” Grandmother Helen Ray said of the new policy: “It is too little, too late. Sienna’s death can save another baby if nothing else.”

Following the hearing, a West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: “The trust would like to offer its condolences to the family. The trust continuously reviews if further improvements can be made to its practice and procedures and is introducing additional education to all clinicians around the care of children.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

World Cup offer at leisure centres

MEMBERSHIP costs at Dudley’s local authority leisure centres have been reduced to coincide with the World Cup.

Dudley Council is offering discounted memberships of £20.18 a month at Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres – a saving of £9.32 a month.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: “This is a great offer and will help people inspired by the World Cup to get fit over the summer. The offer is open to new customers only. Call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport website.

MP hosting third apprentice fair

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood, is organising an Apprenticeship Fair for young people. The event will take place next Friday, June 29, from 2 to 4pm at the Art & Design Centre, Venture Way, Brierley Hill.

In attendance will be companies including Barclays Bank, NHS, Tesco, Dudley Council, Creative Alliance, Aldi, Mitchell & Butlers, Police, colleges and more. Mr Wood said, “I am very much looking forward to hosting my third annual apprenticeship fair.” For details call (01384) 913123 or email mike.wood.mp@parliament.uk

Top brass to visit Dudley Town Hall

THE famous Brighouse & Rastrick Band – the national champion band of Britain – will be joining Langley Band’s 140th anniversary celebrations at Dudley Town Hall on July 8.

The 5pm concert will be a joint celebration involving both highly rated brass bands.

Tickets are £12 (£8 for under-16s) available from Dudley Town Hall box office, online at www.boroughhalls.co.uk or by calling (01384) 812812.

Meanwhile, Langley Band’s summer concerts are at the Barlow Theatre, Langley on July 20 and 21.

Classic cars roll back into the High Street

A CLASSIC car show is returning to Dudley at the end of this month.

The second annual Dudley Classic Car Show is coming to Dudley town centre on Saturday, June 30.

The cars will parade down the High Street before parking and will be on display throughout the day in Market Place, Stone Street and Stone Street Square.

The show will run from 11am to 3.30pm.

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Jab reminder to fend off cat virus

PET owners are being urged to protect their feline friends from a fatal virus. The RSPCA has issued a plea to residents to get their cats vaccinated against feline panleukopenia. It comes after an outbreak of the fatal disease across the region last summer, which saw 40 cats treated at Birmingham's Newbrook Animal Hospital. Joanna Szkutnicki, senior clinician at the hospital, said: "Feline panleukopenia is a severe disease that most often proves fatal. Most cats contract it from a contaminated environment via infected faeces." Symptoms can include vomiting and diarrhoea.

Fresh signs of life in housing market

THE housing market is showing renewed signs of life in the West Midlands, improving for the first time in three years, with more homes going up for sale. A lack of supply of homes on the local market has been holding it back but the latest report from chartered surveyors found most were seeing that situation improve. As a result the number of sales has gone up in May as the market turns positive for the first time since September 2015. And demand from buyers has risen for the first time this year, according to the RICS UK Residential Market Survey for the West Midlands.

Hello Culture, as it returns to Brum

ANNUAL digital symposium Hello Culture returns to Birmingham City University tomorrow, Friday. The conference will explore experimentation in digital technology providing artists and arts organisations access to new thinking, ideas, forms of practice and artistic experimentation and expression. It is free to attend, but spaces are limited. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance on the Hello Culture website.

RSPCA focusing on animals and humans

YOUNGSTERS are being asked to take photos showing the many ways in which humans can impact animals for a new category of the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2018. For the first time, a category exploring 'The Human Impact on Animals' will be included for under 19s. The closing date is 4pm on August 17. Submit images online at: www.rspca.org.uk/jpa/18 and judges include TV nature expert Chris Packham.

Financial boost for Skills Factory

THE Black Country Skills Factory has been awarded additional funding to extend the programme until March next year. The additional £317,500 is a 66 per cent increase to the current funding and will enable the Skills Factory, which is based at Brierley Hill's Waterfront West, to continue to improve labour market relevance of education and training in the Black Country.

The funding, from the Education & Skills Funding Agency as part of the Black Country European Social Fund programme, will enable the Skills Factory to deliver an additional 650 bite-sized courses to Black Country employers to meet their specific needs. This will more than double the numbers of courses planned with the original funding.

The Black Country Skills Factory will also work with 40 more schools and support the Skills Factory to continue to address skills shortages in the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's five 'transformational' sectors – advanced manufacturing, transport technologies, building technologies, environmental technologies and business services. Stewart Towe, chairman of the

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "This funding is great news for the Black Country Skills Factory and will enable it to continue to make education and training provision more responsive to the needs of the economy, so that employers' skills needs are more quickly and more effectively met, and individuals receive better designed skills provision which equips them for the world of work."

Record job figures but shop closures are looming

A RECORD number of people are in work across the Black Country, new figures show, despite a looming high street crisis. The employment rate for the West Midlands is at a record high of 74 per cent with 2.76 million in work in the three months to April – up 51,000 on the previous quarter. The number of people claiming unemployment benefits in Dudley dropped by 210 in May to 7,235 – 3.8 per cent.

Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey called it a 'Great British success story.' But the figures don't take into account recent losses to the high street such as Toys 'R' Us, Mothercare, Carpetright and Maplin. Wolverhampton Beatties owner House of Fraser has also announced it is to shut stores and Poundworld – which has a store at Merry Hill – revealed last week that it is in administration.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce member Ninder Johal said the closures will likely lead to a dip in figures. But he remained confident about the future.

He said: "What usually happens is when one brand disappears, another one will come along and replace, and hopefully employ those who have lost their jobs.

Employment nationally increased by 146,000 to 32.39 million, the highest figure since records began in 1971, giving a record rate of 75.6 per cent.

The national jobless rate is 4.2 per cent, the lowest since 1975, say the Office for National Statistics. For the West Midlands it is 5.1 per cent.

MP calls for Brum airport expansion

A BLACK Country MP has urged the Government to boost growth in the West Midlands by expanding Birmingham International Airport.

Ian Austin, Dudley North MP, said the decision to back a new runway at Heathrow Airport would ensure the bulk of investment would go to the south-east rather than the Midlands. He called on Transport Secretary Chris Grayling to consider a second runway at Birmingham if serious about boosting growth in the regions.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr Austin said: "For all the talk of balanced economic growth and boosting the regions, it's the same old story with the bulk of the investment, the spending, the jobs and the benefits always all in London and the south-east."

History repeats itself with latest link road

Report by Peter Madeley

IT has been described as a revival of the controversial Western Orbital motorway – and these images show that a proposed new link road around the Black Country looks almost identical to a plan from years gone by.

Bosses at Midlands Connect have recommended a relief road linking the M5 with the M6/M6 Toll as the best way to bust congestion on the region's clogged roads.

They say the Western Strategic Route could shift one fifth of traffic travelling through the region from the M6 in the north and M5 in the south.

While bosses are keen to point out that no exact route has been identified, a map included in a report by Midlands Connect to the West Midlands Combined Authority shows it passing near to Codsall, Perton, Pattingham, Wombourne, Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

It appears to be a mirror image of the Western Orbital motorway, which was scrapped in the 1990s and then again in the 2000s over environmental and financial concerns.

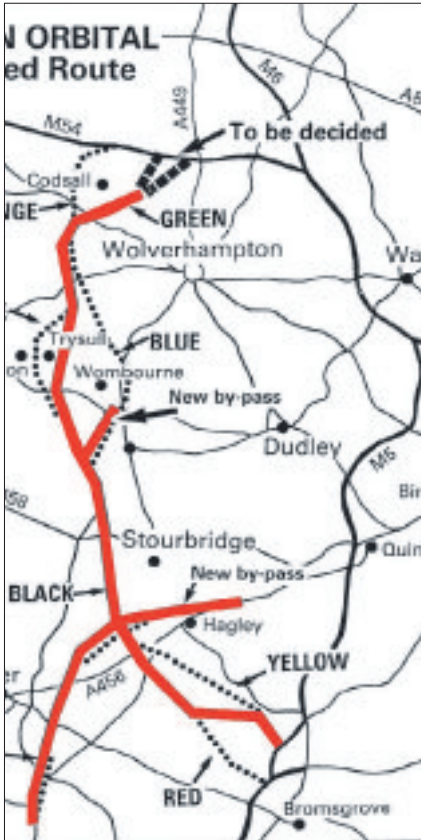
Critics

A map printed in the Express & Star in March 1989 shows the preferred route agreed by transport bosses at the time.

As with the new Midlands Connect planned road, it started at the M5 in Bromsgrove and snaked up past Stourbridge and into South Staffordshire, passing Wombourne, Trysull, Codsall, on its way to meet the M54.

The similarity in the two routes has not been lost on critics.

Birmingham Friends of the Earth (FoE) described it as the revival of the Western Orbital Motorway, and urged Midlands Connect to ditch its plans.



1989 – Western Orbital Motorway, scrapped in 1996



2018 – the proposed Western Strategic Route



1989 – proposed link road between M54 and M6

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Landlords reminded of change in the law

LANDLORDS who own multiple occupation properties have been reminded they will need to apply for a licence by October to comply with new Government rules.

The legislation means private sector landlords of properties which house five or more people, unless they're from the same family, will have to gain a licence.

Dudley Council is asking private landlords who are affected to get in touch so that they're ready for the change when it's introduced on October 1.

Currently, landlords only need a licence if their property consists of more than three storeys.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing in Dudley, said: "This legislation is designed to help reduce overcrowding in properties and help to clamp down on rogue landlords who don't provide adequate accommodation for their tenants."

"Landlords have until October 1 to apply for their licence, and anyone uncertain of whether this applies to them can contact our housing team to find out more."

Landlords in the Dudley borough can apply online by going to www.dudley.gov.uk and searching 'private landlords'.

Any landlords requiring guidance can call 01384 815118 or email housing.enforcement@dudley.gov.uk

Patient found dead after leaving ward

A HOSPITAL patient was found dead in a church graveyard after going missing from a ward at Russells Hall Hospital.

She was discovered dead at St Mark's Church in Pensnett last Thursday. The church is a three-minute walk from the hospital.

A spokesman for Dudley Group NHS Trust said: "We can confirm that a patient signed out of a ward at Russells Hall Hospital and did not return, which was not unusual for this patient. The patient had capacity and had the right to leave."

"We would like to offer our condolences to the family for their tragic loss."

An inquest will be held into the death.

Tipton director

TIPTON and Coseley Building Society has appointed Cammy Amaira as new director of sales and marketing. Mr Amaira joins from Family Building Society where he was head of intermediary sales.

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Halesowen lawyer retires after 40 years



Mr Price, centre, with his colleagues

ONE of the Black Country's most experienced lawyers is to retire this month after more than 40 years of working in the profession.

Richard Price, son of the late Eric Price who was a former Justices' Clerk of Halesowen and Stourbridge, began training in the late 1970s, was admitted as a solicitor in 1982 and is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives.

He has worked for many years in Halesowen and has specialised in wills, trusts, probate and the administration of estates, powers of attorney,

other court of protection work and the law relating to people with learning disabilities.

Mr Price joined Thursfields Solicitors in 2013 when the company opened its office in Halesowen, where he then also specialised in residential and commercial conveyancing.

Nick O'Hara, managing director of Thursfields, said: "We were very fortunate to have secured the services of Richard for the last five years of his career, and he's been a great asset to Thursfields."

Patricia Venables, who recently

joined Thursfields, will take over Mr Price's matters once he has retired. Mrs Venables is experienced in the same areas of legal work and is a panel deputy solicitor appointed by the Court of Protection.

Mr Price said: "I feel lucky to have enjoyed my entire career in my home town of Halesowen, hopefully carrying on the family's legal traditions planted in the town by my late father. It's been a pleasure working with and helping local people."

Mr Price is looking forward to spending more time with his family.

Future of shopping to be trialled at Merry Hill

NEW technologies that will reduce carbon emissions and deliver shoppers' bags straight to their cars will be piloted at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Intu is carrying out trials across its 14 UK shopping centres, including Merry Hill, from this summer as part of its pioneering programme Intu Accelerate.

It has signed up seven start-up companies, selected from 97 applicants, who will test their innovative ideas to shape the future of retail and leisure at shopping centres and online.

The new businesses have been invited to work the company to develop their products and services over a 10-week period. Intu Accelerate is now in its second year following the success of last year's initiative which trialled retail robots, queue jumping apps and online personal shoppers. It is again being run in partnership with innovation specialists L Marks.

The companies taking part this year are:

CarTap, providing secure access to vehicles to deliver shoppers' bags straight to their cars; Grid Edge, which saves money and reduces carbon emissions by using artificial intelligence to control energy usage;

Rhythm, creator multiplayer games for big screens that connect companies with crowds of people;

WeFiFo, an online marketplace that connects amateur and professional chefs with paying guests;

Greendeck, which uses artificial intelligence to help fashion brands and retailers automatically classify products into categories;

Yosh.AI, a virtual assistant that provides a personal shopping service;

Royalty, a hi-tech marketing platform that turns anonymous social media data into valuable customer insight.

David Fischel, Intu chief executive, said: "Retail is one of the UK's most exciting and dynamic industries and it's transforming at pace. Together with these creative and innovative businesses, we're developing answers to many of the questions facing our customers and retailers today."

Fred delivers a service masterclass



Paul Hunt, managing partner at Higgs & Sons, left, with TV star and hospitality expert Fred Sirieix

BRITAIN'S most popular maitre d', Fred Sirieix, visited law firm Higgs & Sons in the Black Country to share his experience and passion for customer service excellence.

The Frenchman, who appears on the Channel 4 show First Dates and is now starring in the

BBC series Million Pound Menu, is renowned for his commitment to customer care and emphasises the importance of service to every business, not just the hospitality industry.

He joined Higgs & Sons staff at their Brierley Hill headquarters, where he delivered a master class

in what constitutes good customer service. Illustrated with anecdotes, his presentation focused around 'Fred's 10 golden rules'.

Paul Hunt, managing partner at Higgs & Sons, said: "Fred Sirieix is the epitome of excellent customer care, a quality on which we pride ourselves here at Higgs."

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP calls for more cancer care staff

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is calling on the Government to employ and train more NHS staff to diagnose cancer earlier and provide patients with the best treatment possible.

He is supporting Cancer Research UK's Shoulder to Shoulder campaign, which launched last year and was followed by an announcement from Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt of nearly 4,000 extra staff by 2021.

Mr Austin said: "Our NHS workers do a fantastic job looking after patients and providing life-saving treatment. But to face the challenges in the future we must see more investment in training and employing more staff."

Steel firm opens new £27m factory

A STEEL firm has celebrated its half century with the opening of a £27 million new factory in Oldbury.

The Steel & Alloy Processing site in Popes Lane is equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and will mean the creation of around 60 jobs.

It was built on the site of what used to be the Albright High School until 1983 and was later Sandwell Council's Training and Development Centre.

It provides another 115,000 sq ft of factory space for the company, owned by Spanish firm Gonvarri Steel Services, to expand even further.

Woman fell from first floor window

A WOMAN was taken to hospital after falling out of a first floor window in Dudley.

It is reported that the woman fell from a first floor window of a property in Spring Gardens, in the Kates Hill area of Dudley, shortly before midday on Friday but she is not believed to have been badly hurt.

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "She was taken to hospital with injuries which are not believed to be serious."

"Officers are investigating the circumstances."

DPD looking to build a distribution centre

A DISTRIBUTION centre could be built on a trading estate in Tipton, under new plans.

The proposed 6,906m2 distribution centrefor DPD could be built on the Vaughan Trading Estate, in Sedgley Road East, if the plans are given the green light by Sandwell Council planners.

The plans also include 150 car parking spaces, 135 van spaces and 18 HGV spaces.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Gunners' aid cash is a kick in the teeth

AS our Government prepares to hand over £62 million this year in aid to Rwanda, the country's dictator Paul Kagame has decided to return the favour by giving half of it back to his favourite football team, Arsenal.

Mr Kwagame, whose citizens typically live on about £1 a day, has decided the best way to improve the lot of his people is to sponsor the Gunners to the tune of £10m a year for the next three years.

And in return, the new Arsenal kit will have the logo Visit Rwanda emblazoned across the chest.

And Paul and his mates will be able to make full use of a hospitality box at Arsenal home games. What's not to like?

On hearing that news, my first thought was 'why don't we ever give overseas aid to dictators who support Aston Villa?' Boy, judging from the events of the past couple of weeks, the Claret and Blue Army could certainly use £30m.

And giving money to Villa would certainly be closer to the ideal of helping the less fortunate in the world than handing it over to the billionaires of north London.

But joking apart, how can this be a good use of taxpayers' money, at least for non-Arsenal supporting taxpayers?

Now I'm not one of the naysayers who harrumphs 'charity begins at home' every time the subject of international aid is mentioned. I do believe that as long as there is starvation in the world, that those of us who are fortunate to find ourselves among the richest one per cent of the world have a responsibility to do what we can to help.

And also, from a purely pragmatic point of view, if people in the world's poorest countries have access to decent food and medicine, they are less likely to stow-away in the back of lorries and end up living on the streets of Britain.

What is stupid, though, is the arbitrary target of 0.7 per cent of GDP set by David Cameron, which determines that a fixed amount of money has to be handed over to developing countries, irrespective of what the actual need is.

Some years there will be an argument for spending more than 0.7 per cent of GDP, some years we probably need to spend less.

But when the need to give away taxpayers' money just to meet a politically correct target results in millions being indirectly donated to a moneybags football team from north London, it is not only wasteful and immoral – it is also a spectacular own goal.

Historic summit with leader playing his Trump card



Poldark's shirtless scene gets people talking, or does it? Answers on a postcard...



Trump gets tough with G7 leaders, and then cosies up with Kim Jong-Un in North Korea



Graduates to become a detective in three months? Sherlock didn't need university

Get it off your chest as Poldark returns

"SHIRTLESS Poldark Gets Everyone Talking" (BBC headline). Not in this column, it doesn't.

LIFE among Guardian readers is as fraught as ever. One writes to an agony aunt "My girlfriend wants a polysexual relationship. I don't. What should we do?" Isn't it obvious? Shoot the parrot.

A READER, lamenting the closure of local banks, wonders whether they might be able to keep a few more branches open if only they reduced the "obscene" bonuses paid to some bank bosses. Nice idea but that would mean banks treating their customers as though they valued them. Under the present arrangements the banks regard customers as numbers while spending millions of pounds on TV adverts pretending that they really, really value us. Anyone else sick to death of black horses?

WE are on holiday this week in Beer, Devon, and came upon a strange incident down the coast in Seaton where a dog, chained outside a shop, managed to get a foot caught in its lead and was yelping for help. What would you do? While you're mentally rehearsing your own heroism, I should point out that this agitated dog was a huge English bull terrier with jaws like T-rex. Massive respect to the old chap who, knowing nothing about this beast, coolly stepped forward to untangle it, and promptly got a good licking as the terrier's new best friend, while the rest of us dithered.

I ONCE worked on a newspaper founded in

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



1805 and I spent hours poring through old editions. One advert, from 1806, was headed "For the inspection of the curious." It described an exhibition of gallstones, some tiny and others huge, recently extracted from the guts of a cow. Back in 1805 people actually paid to see such things. How laughable, how primitive and how much we have changed. You think? This week one news website was offering, for the inspection of the curious: "Watch a huge Galapagos tortoise eat a cactus at San Diego Zoo." We don't change that much. I bet today's internet generation would pack the town square to ogle a public execution.

TALKING of which, in the entire history of English courts, were felons ever reprieved on the gallows and allowed to walk away scot-free, as seen in Poldark? Having been spared the most terrible punishment of death by hanging, the sentence would surely be commuted to the second-worst punishment, being forced to be Australians.

WE are told that Trump's sharp words after the G7 were intended to make him look tough before the North Korea talks. If so, it was a high-risk strategy. What if Angela Merkel had pinched his nose and made him cry?

MORE mysteries of the digital age. Friends came to visit us down here in Devon and texted us from Honiton, just eight miles up the road. They got here before their text arrived.

ANOTHER digital mystery. Having accidentally dunked my camera in Loch Lomond last month, I am using another old one which takes photos, displays them briefly but then seemed to consume them without trace. Turns out it has been filling them away in the section of its memory dated 2012, possibly because Beer, Devon in 2018 is almost identical to Beer, Devon in 2012. Or in 1812 for that matter.

AND before the techies among you rush to say it is possible to save a camera after it has been soaked, it really isn't. There may be online accounts of cameras being brought back to life by total immersion in dried rice, by the extremely quick-thinking and well-prepared but, as a rule, the battery is knackered one nano-second after hitting the water and the electronics a nano-second later. You can try the dried-rice remedy on your dripping camera but the misted lenses, like the eyes of a dying animal, tell the true story. The kindest thing is to bin it.

MINISTERS have announced a new project to turn graduates into detectives in just three months. As long as that? How much training does it take to say over the phone: "We can't get anyone there until Wednesday. Have you contacted Victim Support? Here's your crime number..." It's not all Sherlock.

TALKING POINT



Waiters' term takes on guise of insincerity

IF there is one thing guaranteed to make a visit to a restaurant less enjoyable these days it is the way that waiting staff seem to think it is essential to refer to customers as 'guys'. I am not glad to be guy (apologies to Tom Robinson), in fact the term is starting to get on my pips.

During a meal recently my wife and I were referred to repeatedly as 'guys'. What would you like to drink guys? Are you ready to order guys? Is everything OK guys? Can we take your plates guys? Would you like to see the sweet menu guys?

I accept that their use of the term was intended in a friendly manner and that they had probably been told to use it by their boss because it is widely considered to be informal and gender neutral.

I didn't expect for us to be called sir or madam (well, I might if it was the Ritz) but the over use of the term becomes grating especially when there is no need to add 'guys' to any of the above sentences anyway.

It's not that I think it is a sexist term, I doubt it is ever used to make females feel ill at ease and I think it far more likely a group of women would take issue with being addressed as 'dolls' or 'gals'.

It is just so American, a term that one might expect in a US burger joint.

Frankly, I would even prefer 'bab', 'chick' or 'cocker' to 'guys', at least that would make me laugh and has a certain Black Country charm.

Like much American slang, the word guy has made a transatlantic journey and come back with a different meaning. Britain and America are, after all, two nations divided by a common language (an observation first attributed to George Bernard Shaw).

The original word does go back to Guy Fawkes, the infamous gunpowder plotter.

It found use in the feverish paranoid atmosphere of 17th century Britain when the new Protestant establishment feared Roman Catholics backed by France and Spain were plotting against them. Back then a group of 'guys' were shady looking characters with dubious, probably criminal, intent. In American it became a colloquial phrase with more positive connotations, meaning a group of friends, colleagues or team-mates.

The problem is that 'guys' is such a lazy, hollow cliché of a word that is smacks of insincerity even when the intention is to be welcoming, warm and friendly.

So please, hard-working waiting staff everywhere, drop the 'guys'... and don't get me started on 'folks'.

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Cradley was our theatre of war during 70s

THERE was somewhat of a buzz in our house recently, caused by the report in your paper regarding a hand grenade found in a garage in Cradley.

I have imparted the story of my childhood summer of playing war games with hand grenades and gas masks to my daughters many times, to which they roll their eyes and pass off as mum's made up fancy. Until with a certain air of 'I told you so' I flaunted the newspaper under their noses. Mum was vindicated - let me enlighten you.

During the long summer holidays of the late 1970s all the kids from Fur-

long Lane, Hillside Avenue, Hillbank Road, Elmtree Grove and Timberdine Close would play out from breakfast to supper time. All the usual games. Tick, treasure hunt, kick the can, etc.

However, one summer - approximately 1977/8 - we came across a stash of World War Two ammunition. We found piles of useful junk inside a large barn-like building. We came across hidden boxes of bullets, hand grenades and gas masks. Our new game was decided, we would be at war!

We split the grenades and set off to the 70 Steps Field to play. We stalked

our opponents throwing the grenades before running off and regrouping. At the end of the day they would be collected up and stored ready for the next time. We were convinced that if you kept the pins in they were safe.

At the end of that summer we made our own time capsule and hid it. Perhaps that may have been what was found a few weeks ago. We found up to 50 grenades that summer so I would not be surprised if more came to light at our theatre of war.

DEBBIE HOWELLS (CATTON)
Cradley

Enjoying the job Mrs May?

I WONDER if Mrs May in her reflective moments ever regrets taking on the role of Prime Minister? She is attacked by backstabbing duplicitous members of her own Government which is full of parasites.

Then she has the spectre of that divisive double-talking demagogue doing his best to hasten her downfall. You then have to add into the mix a continent full of politicians who will smile and show a great deal of deference to you whilst at the same time plotting to cause pain to the whole nation.

Of course the icing on Mrs May's cake is further from these isles, she also has to somehow deal on some level with a misogynistic, narcissistic and corrupt power-mad autocrat.

So Mrs May do you ever wonder if you reached out for a poisoned chalice in 2016?

JOHN GREEN
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Why would someone buy a zombie knife?

RE: Zombie knives. I am sure that I heard a retailer say that he was doing no wrong by supplying these and other knives of a similar nature.

It does not take much to imagine the likely answers to the need to purchase one.

I need it to cut my steak, or I need it to clean out my fingernails or I need it to clear my way through my back garden as my neighbours have complained about the state of it.

Surely the purchaser would not say that I need it to defend myself against other purchasers of these weapons, it's defensive!

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Afraid over driverless car future

AM I the only one who seems to be concerned about the event of driverless cars. I would never dream of getting into a driverless car.

There has already been at least one fatality in America when a driverless car failed to apply the brakes.

One thing is for certain, anything that relies on computerisation will at some-time fail, because that's what computers do on a regular basis.

But I wouldn't only be afraid to get into a driverless car. I would also be afraid to drive a normal car on the road if driverless cars were on my route and I would be afraid to walk on the pavement.

I would even be afraid to sit in my own living room as I have had three cars crash into my front garden wall over the years. If driverless cars are the future, then God help us.

MR J WESTLEY
Dudley

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Model feels vindicated after kidnapper jailed

"I know it's a bizarre story but it's a true one."

Those were the words of model Chloe Ayling's lawyer after a man from the Black Country was jailed in Italy for kidnapping her and holding her captive for six days.

It was a remarkable tale which could have been taken from the script of a suspense movie. Played out in a rural Italian village, the crime would eventually be traced to the Black Country.

Ms Ayling said she was snatched after being lured to a fake modelling shoot in Milan before being bundled into the boot of a car and held at a remote farmhouse. Lukasz Herba, aged 30, from Tividale, was jailed for nearly 17 years after being convicted of kidnapping the model by an Italian court.

Raided

Following the hearing the 20-year-old from south London said she felt 'vindicated' by the verdict after she had been accused of staging the kidnap to become famous.

Polish-born Herba had been living at a block of flats in Tividale, which was raided by police after the case made international headlines. He had pleaded his innocence by claiming the model was in on the plot all along.

But the case was taken very seriously by police and courts in Italy, so seriously that Herba was last week locked up for 16 years and nine months.

Authorities there said that after attending for what she thought was a modelling opportunity, the young model was drugged and taken to rural Piedmont where she was kept in a farmhouse and handcuffed to furniture.

Herba was said by authorities to have been acting for a group which



Lukasz Herba, Polish national from Tividale, jailed for nearly 17 years

sells women as sex slaves on the 'dark web' to buyers in the Middle East.

Ms Ayling said she feared for her life during her six-day ordeal after being told she would be killed if she did not co-operate. Eventually, she was released to the British consulate.

Lawyers acting for Herba had suggested the kidnap was a stunt dreamed up to boost Ms Ayling's career. The model appeared on several TV shows in the weeks following their ordeal to tell her story.

Her agent Adrian Singleton said: "This has been an incredible burden on her shoulders for the last year in



Model Chloe Ayling, who was held captive for six days at an Italian farmhouse the face of media criticism of her motivation and this is vindication - her story is true. Now she can get on with her life.

"One of the difficulties with a psychopath and a narcissist, as Mr Herba is, is that he behaves in such a way that it's almost impossible to believe that someone could be so stupid and so, in some ways, it's not surprising that the media found Chloe's story difficult to believe.

"Let's not forget she was bundled into a suitcase, injected with ketamine in the boot of a car and thought she was going to die."

Splashing Out on a New Bathroom?

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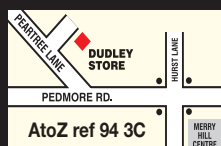
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Things looking up for Ruby's birthday at zoo



Ruby Holloway feeding her adopted giraffe Kubwa at Dudley Zoo with help from one of the keepers at the Castle Hill attraction

BIRTHDAY girl Ruby Holloway definitely dressed the part when she came to Dudley Zoo to feed her adopted giraffe, Kubwa.

The eight-year-old Huntingtree Primary School pupil from Halesowen wore a black hoodie with 'Kubwa' printed on the sleeve and a pink T-shirt with his photo on. The garment also said 'Kubwa's Adopted Mommy 2018' as the giraffe-mad youngster had been

treated to an adoption pack for her birthday.

Ruby's family had the personalised clothing made for her and also gave her a giraffe Close Encounter experience to feed 17-year-old Kubwa and nine-year-old female, Josie.

Ruby said: "I loved feeding the giraffes and got to ask the staff lots of questions. I'm crazy about giraffes and at home I have piles of giraffe toys, a giraffe duvet cover and a 3D picture of a giraffe on my wall."

Mother Clare said: "It's been a great day and Ruby felt really special in

her Kubwa clothing. Her sister came up with the idea for the hoodie and T-shirt and it will be a great reminder of the feed experience and the year she adopted Kubwa."

Ruby visited the zoo with her mother Clare, father Ian, 19-year-old sister Meghan and her sister's boyfriend Kieren Billingham.

Rothschild's giraffes are the world's rarest subspecies of giraffe.

Named after naturalist, Lord Walter Rothschild, they are also known as Baringo giraffes after the Lake Baringo area of Kenya.

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Fundraisers show their true colours



Rebecca Fox with baby Archie, the youngest entrant in the NHS fundraising run at Himley

HUNDREDS of kind-hearted fundraisers laced up their trainers for a charity colour run in aid of the neonatal unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Staff from the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust were joined by family, friends and members of the public to run the colour gauntlet in the 5k Neon Dash at Himley Hall and Park on June 10. More than £10,000 was raised on the day for the hospital's neonatal unit, specialising in the care of ill or premature newborn infants.

A powder blast signalled the start and end of the run with participants also blasted with colour at four stations around the course. Jackie Dietrich, from the trust, said: "Around 300 people took part and we raised over £10,000 for the unit. So it was a fantastic day. We had one mother, Rebecca Fox, who took part with her baby Archie who was a former patient of the neonatal unit. He was the youngest to take part in the run."

Village's scarecrow festival is cancelled

A POPULAR scarecrow festival held at a village near Halesowen has been cancelled with organisers citing financial problems as the main reason.

Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival, which sees an abundance of handmade scarecrows dotted across the village, raises money for various charities and has attracted up to 30,000 visitors to the Worcestershire village.

By Megan Archer

Last year it was named the best event of its kind in the UK, but just this week organisers announced it has been cancelled for 2018.

In a statement on its website organisers said: "Whilst we understand that this will be a huge disappointment to our community the hope is that we can come back with a festival in 2019."

"We have earmarked the 21-22nd September 2019 as an option. However, for this to happen we require more backing and support from the village to ensure that our community assets continue to benefit from this fantastic long-standing event."

An email address chair@

belbroughtonscarecrow.co.uk was included in case anyone had any comments, suggestions or ideas. Later, the festival's Facebook page then uploaded a photo featuring the words 'Sorry, the 2018 event has been cancelled. We will be back in 2019'.

Comments on Facebook ranged from sympathetic to critical of the festival committee's decision. Emma Sadler said: "Maybe if you explained on the Facebook post why its been cancelled people would react better." Dan White added: "We travel from Northamptonshire to visit the festival. Sorry to hear is not on this year but we look forward to attending in 2019."

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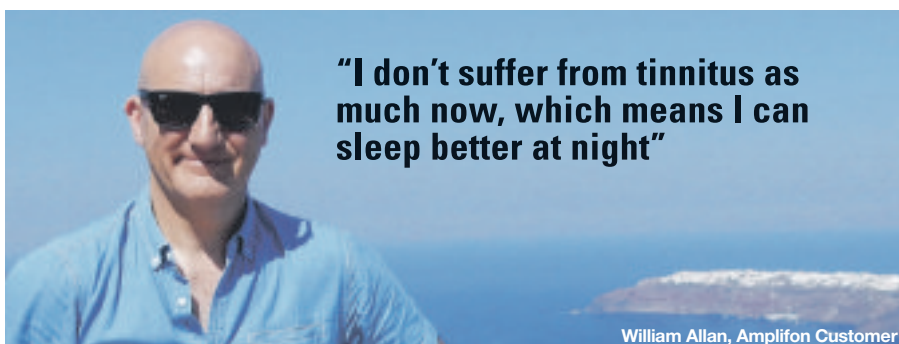
Sound advice on tinnitus

Six million Britons are living with tinnitus – but many feel they aren't getting enough help.

More than half of those who visited their GP with the condition were unhappy with the advice they received, according to research by the British Tinnitus Association. Eighty-eight per cent of those referred to an audiology unit reported having to wait up to four months for an appointment.

The good news is there are people who can help. Global hearing specialist Amplifon can quickly provide expert advice and hearing aids to bring respite from symptoms. Studies suggest that hearing aids do reduce the effects of tinnitus for a significant number of people. By amplifying the sounds around them, aids can make the noises associated with tinnitus less noticeable for sufferers.

Amplifon can offer state-of-the-art digital aids that can be tailored to suit individual hearing needs and come with bespoke tinnitus programmes. Lots of people are already finding that thanks to good advice from an audiologist through Amplifon – which has 200 hearing centres in the UK – their quality of life has been transformed. ■



William Allan, Amplifon Customer

"I don't suffer from tinnitus as much now, which means I can sleep better at night"

Keen traveller William Allan knew he needed to seek help after struggling to hear a tour guide on a dream trip to China.

Now, the 57-year-old's hearing has improved and his tinnitus symptoms have eased thanks to Amplifon. William and wife Valerie were completing their bucket list of places to visit when he became aware of his problem. Upon their return, he booked an appointment with Amplifon, and was impressed with what he found.

"My audiologist, Andrew, spent time finding out about my background," he says. "We went through everything in detail and he answered all of my questions. I'd also been suffering from a complex form of tinnitus so he recommended a pair of hearing aids that would suit."

During a free trial of his hearing aids he found that his hearing was transformed. The aids have special settings that help soothe the symptoms, including tones he can play when the tinnitus becomes unbearable.

"I don't suffer from tinnitus as much now, which means I can sleep better at night," says William. "It couldn't have been any better and it showed that these were the hearing aids for me."

Whilst his globe-trotting has benefitted, William's new hearing aids also allow him to take part in conversations in noisy rooms, which he struggled with before. He is now also able to watch television without the volume turned up to the max. "I would recommend Amplifon to anyone who has any kind of problems with their hearing, including tinnitus," he adds. ■

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Ironmaster statue project funding plea

A MEMORIAL to a founding father of the industrial revolution is one of dozens of Dudley projects applying for grant aid.

Dudley Council's community forums, which meet this week, will decide on an application for more than £8,000 to help fund a monument to iron master Abraham Darby.

He was born in 1678 and founded a family dynasty, which led to his grandson, Abraham Darby III, building the world's first iron bridge over the River Severn in Shropshire in 1779. The request for cash is being made by the Friends of Wren's Nest Nature Reserve to the Castle and Priory, St James's and St Thomas's Community Forum - one of ten forums which awards money to local projects in the borough.

There is also a £4,820 application from the Dudley Deaf Theatre, which supports the hard of hearing to enjoy plays and theatre activities.



In the pink for charity - Hannah Turton and Millie Coldicott ran in memory of Hannah's step-father

Park is turned pink as the Race for Life returns

MORE than 1,000 people flocked to West Park in Wolverhampton to raise £60,000 for Cancer Research UK as a sea of pink washed over the city park as fundraisers took part in the Race For Life event.

Donna Downing, 46, from Wordley, was cheering on her daughter Hannah Turton, 17, and friend Millie Coldicott, 17, who were running in memory of her step-father Wayne Hackeson. Mr Hackeson, otherwise known as 'Acki', died on June 4 after being diagnosed with a form of Sarcoma. Finn Hackeson, 12, Wayne's son, also came to cheer on his step-sister Hannah.

Donna said she was 'immensely

proud' of Hannah, who had managed to raise more than £2,000.

She said: "I'm so immensely proud. Hopefully we can raise all this money for awareness into the rare cancers that are still taking and destroying people's lives. It just goes to show this awful disease affects absolutely everybody and we keep doing the research. We have got to get as much information and save as many people as possible."

Race for Life will also take place at Himley Hall on July 8 and a Pretty Muddy event will be held at Sandwell Valley Country Park on September 29. To enter visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.



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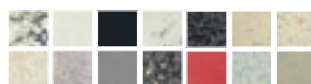
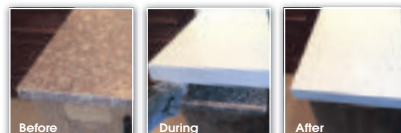


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Cost of junction revamp to be shared

A MASSIVE 'hamburger-style' traffic system will cost Sandwell Council tax payers less than £3 million after the borough won the backing of major funders.

The huge cost saving will mean that the notorious traffic jam hotspot Birchley Island in Oldbury, which is expected to cost £26m, will only cost local people £2.6m.

It is hoped the new road scheme, next to Junction 2 of the M5, will cut queues and improve traffic flow between Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham.

A report to Sandwell cabinet members shows that the cost of the hamburger-style layout, where the Wolverhampton Road passes through the current island in both directions, will be shared with Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Black Country LEP will put in £16m while the Combined Authority pays £7.58m towards the road scheme.

Congested

The scheme is expected to reduce delays and congestion, improve bus services and improve road safety.

Announcing the plan, Councillor Steve Eling, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "This is welcome news because the Birchley Island is a very congested junction which causes long delays and frustration for thou-

By George Makin

sands of local motorists and drivers passing through.

"The main problem is that the island is used by so many motorists who do not have an alternative route to the motorways or into Oldbury."

He admitted: "It is a junction I avoid at all times."

Counselling Eling added: "The new hamburger system will improve the congestion problems even though it will always be a busy junction and the improvements will have a positive impact on bus services and for local motorists."

"It will also be good news for the many Black Country businesses who use the junction to transport goods through the junction onto the regional and national networks."

The plan to revamp the junction on the main route between Dudley and Birmingham was approved by Sandwell's cabinet last week.

Lots of free events as play week returns

THERE will be free games, sports and craft activities galore for youngsters in Dudley borough this summer.

Events will take place as the popular Dudley Play Week returns. Back for its tenth year, the event organised by Dudley Council will run from July 30 to August 3.

During the week, there will be group games, sports, camp fires, den building, a climbing wall, craft activities, a baby zone, assault courses, skittles, tug of war, bouncy castles and stalls. Most of the activities on offer will be free of charge.

The events will be held on various days at Huntingtree Park, Halesowen; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley; Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge; Priory Park, Dudley; and the Dell Stadium and Fens Pool, in Pensnett. Activities take place daily between noon and 4pm. Children must be registered on arrival. For more information visit www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk or call (01384) 813755.



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This project is receiving up to £34 million of funding made up of £17 million European Social Fund and £17 million Youth Employment Initiative, plus match funding of up to £8m from the Big Lottery Fund and funding from partners.

Quack thinking rescuers save ducklings from drain

IT is an old cliché that firefighters climb trees to rescue cats – but one crew was forced to delve underground to save a family of ducklings.

Firefighters were called in to help by a concerned member of the public to save the baby ducks which had fallen into a deep drain in Coseley.

A woman called for help after being alerted to the ducklings' plight by the mother duck who was in distress near the drain.

She then peered into the drain to see the ducklings chirping from a puddle beneath the road.

The metal drain, in Weddell Wynd, was pulled up so crews could reach the seven ducklings that were trapped.

Fall

Thankfully, the stranded birds were pulled to safety and appeared unruffled by their fall after being found paddling in a puddle of water at the bottom of the drain.

The ducks are thought to have come from the nearby Weddell Wynd woodland but found their travels brought to an abrupt halt when they tumbled down the drain.

Unfortunately, by the time crews arrived the ducklings' mother had left the area and, despite a search of the area, could not be found.

Firefighters from West Bromwich Fire Station attended and were able to remove the drain cover to get to the birds.

The fluffy litter creatures were then carefully pulled out of the drain.

Crew commander Andrew Papworth, from West Bromwich Fire Station, said: "We were called by a local resident from the nearby area.



The ducklings were kept together in a bucket but mother duck had gone



The little ducks were stuck at the bottom of a drainage shaft in Coseley

The caller was alerted to a distressed mother duck. Seven ducklings had found their way into the drain.

"They had fallen through the grating in the drain cover and unfortunately ended up stranded in the water in the drain.

"They were about a foot and a half below the drain," explained Mr Papworth. "We managed to lift the drain and rescue the seven ducklings.

They were put in one of our buckets to keep them safe."

Crews were called to the incident at around 8.20am on Thursday.

As the ducklings' mother could not be found, the firefighters arranged for them to be handed over to the care of the RSPCA.

Crew commander Papworth added: "We tried to locate the mother but unfortunately we couldn't find her.

"The ducklings were left with the caller and I made arrangements with the RSPCA to collect them."

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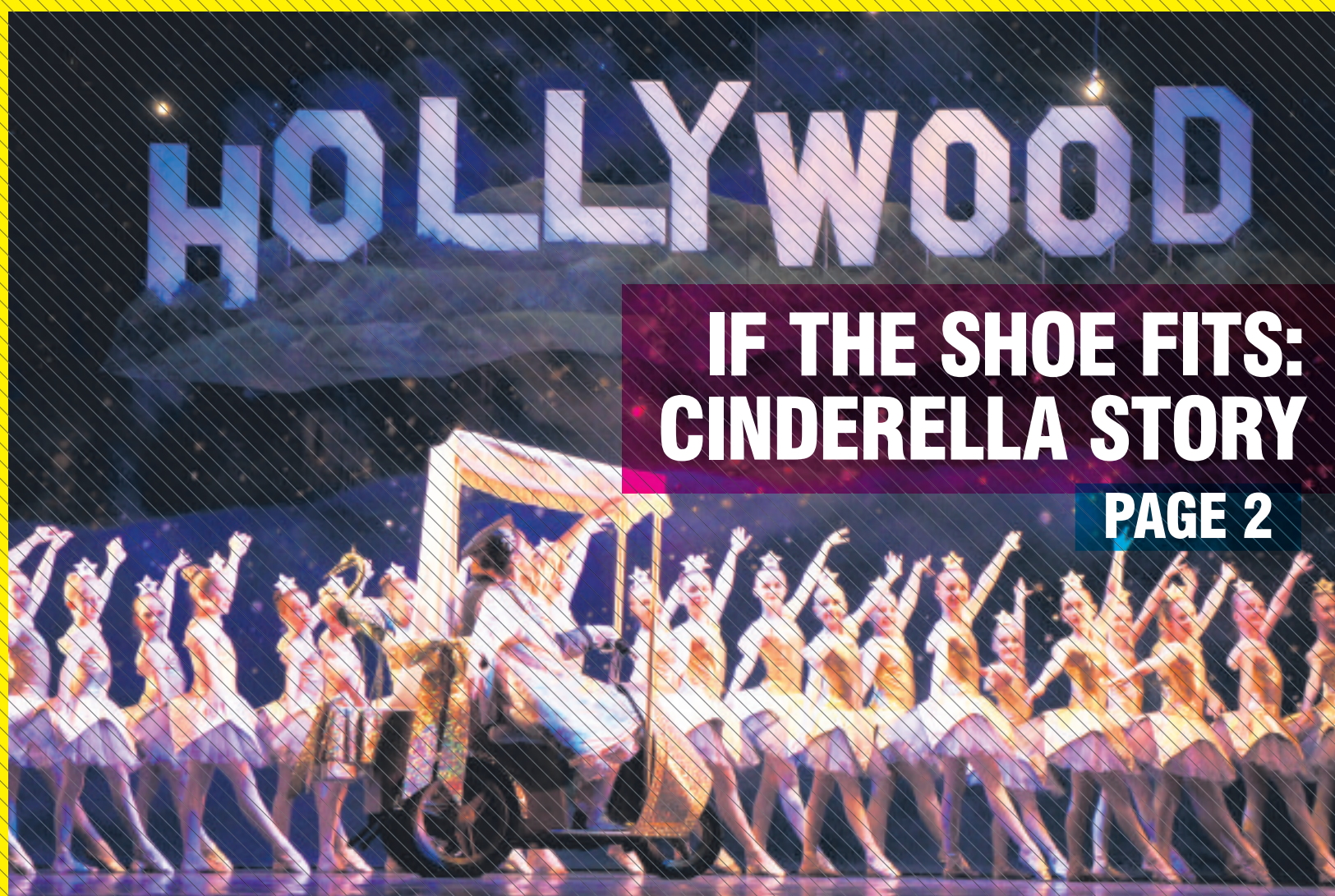


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Dancer Monica will pirouette to the ball

Spanish dancer Monica Tapiador will be starring in English Youth Ballet's new production of Cinderella in Hollywood in Shrewsbury tomorrow and Saturday. She will be leading an impressive cast of international principal dancers and 83 of the region's finest young dancers at Theatre Severn.

Monica was born in Spain and before joining EYB she danced with La Scala Theatre Ballet and English National Ballet.

Set in the glamorous era of 1950s Hollywood movies, the lavish production draws its inspiration from the film star Grace Kelly who met Prince Rainier of Monaco at a press party and later married him.

Cinderella is a seamstress on a film set and the Fairy Godmother is her late mother – a former movie star of the 1930s. Her wicked sisters are Hollywood starlets competing with each other for starring film roles. The Prince meets Cinderella at the press party but at midnight she flees from the scene leaving a sparkly silver pointe-shoe as the only clue to her identity.

The choreography has been created by Director Janet Lewis and her team of international principal artists, who coach the young dancers.

The music combines Shostakovich Jazz Suites and Ballet Suites with memorable melodies from Hollywood films such as Tea for Two, Chinatown and Dancing in the Dark. The stunning new stage designs for the ballet are by Sebastian Petit and the costume designs are by Keith Bish.

We caught up with Monica to find out more about the show and what makes her tick:

HOW DOES THE ROLE OF CINDERELLA THAT YOU WILL BE DANCING DIFFER FROM THE FAIRYTALE?

My Cinderella is very different to the Disney movie. She works in the wardrobe department of a Hollywood film studio in the 1950s. She lost her mother when she was younger so she had to grow up very fast. Her step-sisters aren't ugly – they are wicked Hollywood starlets. Cinderella dreams of becoming a movie star – just like her mother.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF THE ROLE FOR YOU?

It's important not to get into the cliché of playing the artificial or fairytale role. I want my Cinderella to be a real girl that the audience can identify with. Also, the style of the choreography is neo-classical (quite modern ballet) and my body is having to find new and different ways of moving that I'm not used to.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT THE AUDIENCES WILL ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE NEW PRODUCTION?

The audience will love the selection of music in the ballet. We have beautiful orchestral jazz and classical music that the audience are familiar with. It really helps to create the Hollywood atmosphere. There are also many styles of dance – from glamorous show dancing to classical waltzes. I think that Cinderella's motorised buggy that takes her to the press party will be a hit. It is so Hollywood!

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT COACHING THE SHROPSHIRE YOUNG DANCERS IN THE CAST?

I have liked seeing the transition they have made since day one of rehearsals. At the beginning, they

Crystal clear – Monica Tapiador brings Hollywood glamour to the fairy tale



were quite unsure and nervous and they have become so much more confident and disciplined as rehearsals have progressed. They are learning how to work as a team and really push themselves.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ANY YOUNG DANCER CONSIDERING A CAREER IN DANCE?

If you can learn to believe in what you do then the audience will also believe in you. I think they should keep their passion even through the difficult times. Keep an eye on the goal that is driving you – even on the days when you don't feel that motivated. It is such an amazing feeling to work in a job you love.

● Cinderella in Hollywood will be presented tomorrow and Saturday at Theatre Severn. For tickets contact the box office on 01743 281281 or visit www.theatresevern.co.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

I want my Cinderella to be a real girl that the audience can identify with

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BRB's Romeo and Juliet



Passion and tragedy

THE timeless drama and storytelling of Shakespeare's plays have inspired generations of theatre-goers and artists across the globe for hundreds of years.

This summer Birmingham Royal Ballet presents an spectacular adaptation of his tale of star-crossed lovers, Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet. Céline Gittens as Juliet and Brandon Lawrence as Romeo are pictured above.

William Shakespeare's tragic and passionate narrative comes to life in this epic production, featuring stunning design by Paul Andrews which recreates the grandeur of Verona. A cast of more than 50 dancers execute Macmillan's acclaimed choreography, from the balcony scene's romantic pas de deux to large-

scale sword fight scenes and the heart-breaking climax. The spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's instantly recognisable score, played live at every performance by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

David Bintley, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, said: "Romeo and Juliet is the most important full-length ballet of the 20th century. It broke the mould of classical ballets because everything within the ballet supports the narrative. The stand-out elements are the pas de deux, particularly the balcony scene. As a narrative piece of dance making, I would say this is probably the greatest one ever made."

It is staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from June 26 to 30. Tickets from birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.

Jobson heads Into The Valley again



ENDURING punk rockers Skids will be celebrating more than 40 years with a headline show at Bilston's Robin 2 next week.

Skids were formed in 1977 in their home town of Dunfermline, Scotland, by Richard Jobson (pictured), Stuart Adamson, Bill Simpson and Tom Kellichan. After releasing an independent single the band were championed by influential Radio 1 DJ John Peel, supported The Clash and then were signed to Virgin Records in 1978.

Their first singles were Sweet Surburbia, The Saints are Coming

and Into the Valley. The latter reached the UK top ten becoming the band's enduring anthem.

Their debut album Scared to Dance came out in 1979 and was followed by two chart singles Masquerade and Working for the Yankee Dollar, both from second album Days in Europa. That album also featured Rusty Egan of Visage after the departure of Kellichan. The band released two more albums before splitting in 1982. Adamson went on to have worldwide success with his new band Big Country but took his own life in Hawaii in 2001.

The band briefly resumed a decade ago and now the 40th

anniversary tour, at the Robin on June 28, features Jobson and Simpson with Mike Baillie, Bruce Watson and Jamie Watson.

Jobson said: "The Skids were not just another punk band. We were creatively ambitious. Most importantly we loved playing live. As I tried to find a way to celebrate the band's 40th anniversary, the answers ended up being very simple – just do it. Play the songs like it might be the last time. Give it everything. Then there's the new stuff. It's the beginning of something new rather than the end of something old."

Metal memories as fans ask Tony

Legendary Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi is returning to Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday to talk about his life and career. Black Sabbath have sold in excess of 100 million albums and Birmingham born and raised Tony is synonymous with heavy rock and his innovative riffs are acknowledged to be the beginning of what became heavy metal. Tony will be answering questions and fans can send them by tweeting #askiommi2018 or emailing marketing@thsh.co.uk.



Lakeside Proms for rock and movie magic

Music will drift across the lake at the NEC this summer as two big nights of entertainment take place across the first weekend in August. Lakeside Proms is the setting for an outdoor summer's evening with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. August 4 will see a night of symphonic rock, while the following evening goes Hollywood with the movie music of John Williams.

The first evening will feature a spectacular light show to accompany the iconic music of Queen, David Bowie, The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson and many more, followed by a firework display. On August 5 the orchestra celebrates film composer Williams with such blockbuster themes as those from the Harry Potter and Indiana Jones movies, ET, Star Wars and Jurassic Park. Tickets available on 0844 338 8000.

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CHOICE



Chelsea Halfpenny

Casualty (BBC1, 8.20pm)
Struggling to keep a lid on her emotions following her night with Eddie, Alicia pushes Ethan away. She then has to deal with Leigh-Anne, who arrives in the ED with her son Kieran, but a shocking confession from Ethan leaves her feeling even more alone. Connie returns and immediately notices that someone has killed her goldfish and replaced it. With Elle's encouragement, Connie has some fun waiting for the culprits to reveal themselves and puts the pressure on. Elsewhere, Robyn asks for more overtime due to her parking fines.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Belgium v Tunisia (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.20** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.05** Film: Muppets Most Wanted. (2014) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. **6.45** **Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death.** The duo open their own bakery and business is soon booming – not least because their potential rivals have all been killed by a mysterious assassin. (R) **7.15** BBC News. **7.25** Regional Programme. **7.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alastair Stewart, Charlene White, Emily Maitlis, Nick Robinson, Piers Morgan, Susanna Reid, Rageh Omaar and Cathy Newman compete in a news-themed edition of the quiz. (R) **8.20** **Casualty.** Struggling to keep a lid on her emotions following her night with Eddie, Alicia pushes Ethan away. She then has to deal with Leigh-Anne, who arrives in the ED with her son Kieran, but a shocking confession from Ethan leaves her feeling even more alone. Connie returns and immediately notices that someone has killed her goldfish and replaced it. With Elle's encouragement, Connie has some fun waiting for the culprits to reveal themselves and puts the pressure on. Elsewhere, Robyn asks for more overtime due to her parking fines. **10.10** BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Jason Mohammad presents action from the day's fixtures – Germany v Sweden in Sochi, South Korea v Mexico in Rostov-on-Don and Belgium v Tunisia in Moscow. **11.20** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. Germany v Sweden. A chance to see the second Group F encounter for both sides. Commentary by Jonathan Pearce. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengies. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.00** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.00** Film: Earth: One Amazing Day. (2017) **11.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **1.00** Tennis: Queen's. The Fever-Free Championships. **5.00** Choose the Right Puppy for You. (R) **6.00** **Coastal Path.** Paul Rose sets off on the walk of a lifetime as he covers 630 miles of the South West Coast Path, discovering wildlife, traditions and adventure along the way. (R) **6.30** **Great Exhibition of the North.** Coverage of the festival, which takes place in Newcastle and Gateshead. **7.00** **The River Wye with Will Millard.** The writer and angler sets out on the final leg of his journey down the Wye, with the river flowing through an area of outstanding natural beauty as it meanders towards the sea. Last in the series. **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Godfrey learns his cottage is scheduled for demolition to make way for a new airstrip. Comedy, starring Arnold Ridley. (R) **8.00** **The Super Squirrels.** The extraordinary abilities of the squirrel family are examined, putting their problem-solving to the test on a specially designed assault course. (R) **9.00** **Live International Rugby League.** New Zealand v England (Kick-off 9.10pm). Coverage of the match, which takes place at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado. This match will be England's first game on US soil since October 2000, when they took on the USA in Orlando, Florida. The Kiwis will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing World Cup last year when, despite being finalists in the three previous editions, they were eliminated in the quarter-finals. England will be hoping to continue their recent encouraging form, having reached the World Cup final in 2017, eventually losing 6-0 to Australia. **11.30** Film: Little Voice. (1998) **1.00** Film: Walesa: Man of Hope. (2013) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.20** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.30** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Coverage of day five, including first two races of the day at 2.30 and 3.05. **3.25** FIFA World Cup 2018. South Korea v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.20** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.30** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Germany v Sweden (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the second Group F encounter for both sides, which comes from Fisht Stadium in Sochi, Russia. This is the first meeting between these countries at the World Cup finals since their last-16 fixture in Munich during the 2006 tournament. The host nation secured a comfortable 2-0 victory, with both goals coming from striker Lukas Podolski. That match would prove to be Sweden's last at the World Cup until their opening group fixture with South Korea last Monday, while Jurgen Klinsmann's side – with current boss Joachim Loew serving as assistant manager – would go out at the semi-final stage to eventual winners Italy. With commentary by Sam Matherface and Lee Dixon, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane, Patrice Evra and Henrik Larsson. **9.15** ITV News; Weather. **9.30** Film: Creed. (2015) Premiere. The son of a heavyweight boxer who died in the ring seeks to follow in the footsteps of the father he never knew. He goes in search of his father's old rival-turned-best friend Rocky Balboa, who agrees to train the young fighter for a shot at the title – but the ageing champ is facing challenges of his own. Boxing drama, starring Michael B Jordan, with Sylvester Stallone reprising his role from the Rocky movies. **12.05** Play to the Whistle. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The King of Queens. (R) **6.25** The King of Queens. (R) **6.50** The King of Queens. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.00** Channel 4 News. **6.30** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position ahead of the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. **8.10** **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Scotland (Kick-off 8.40pm). Coverage of the Test match, which takes place at the Estadio Centenario in Resistencia. In 2017/18, Gregor Townsend's team have beaten Australia, England and France, so will be looking to wrap up a fine season with their fourth straight win against the Pumas, having also visited Canada and the USA in the last two weeks. Presented by Lee McKenzie, with analysis from John Barclay and Ugo Moryne, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Rory Lawson. **11.00** Film: Dumb and Dumber To. (2014) The dim-witted friends are reunited after 20 years, and set off on a road trip to find Harry's estranged daughter. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **1.05** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a Tuscan-style hotel in New Mexico. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Luke is back on the wagon, leaving Ollie to rebel against the rules, while Sienna is planning to move, but Nico has another idea in mind. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. The two strongest teams in Group B compete in the second Italian-themed semi-final, with dishes including fig-stuffed pork and sour sauce, duck ragu with pappardelle pasta. (R) **5.00** Wedding Town. Leading hotelier Alasdair Houston plans to build a love wall in Gretna Green. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Access. **10.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **1.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.35** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **3.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **4.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **5.30** 5 News Weekend. **5.35** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. **6.30** **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** A showdog gives birth to four puppies, and the owners assess their potential for following in their mother's footsteps. The two smallest members of a litter of Mexican hairless hounds struggle to cope with being cooped up in their Peterborough home, a cockapoo tries to befriend a new housemate, and a rescue collie has a first encounter with sheep. **7.30** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts a special episode in which a mother and her son both go looking for love. Emile has to choose between a model, a restaurant host and a Cambridge woman who does not like Mummy's boys, before his mother Belinda sizes up an HGV driver, a former holiday rep, and a third candidate from Northern Ireland. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's winners, which this week features a shocking revelation. **8.30** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) The dizzy blonde heroine graduates as a qualified lawyer and heads straight for Washington, DC determined to persuade Congress to put a stop to the testing of cosmetics on animals – and swiftly proves her mettle in fighting adversity as well as red tape. Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon, Sally Field, Bob Newhart, Bruce McGill and Regina King. **9.30** 5 News Update. **9.35** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Concluded. **10.20** **Live Boxing.** Josh Taylor v Viktor Postol. Coverage of the bout for the WBC Silver Super Lightweight title, which takes place at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow. **12.00** Cricket on 5. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R) **4.00** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
8.00 Simon King's Shetland Adventure
9.00 Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Frank Skinner on George Formby **12.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.00** Unsung Heroines: Danielle de Niese on the Lost World of Female Composers **2.00** Timeshift: The Smoking Years **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close
ITV2
11.45 Catchphrase **12.30** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.55** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.00** Film: Casper (1995) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: Casper (1995) **6.55** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **11.15** Film: Sex and the City 2 (2010) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** Film: Sex and the City 2 (2010) **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
2.50 Midsomer Murders **4.50** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **7.00** Mairget **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **11.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
3.20 ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Further coverage of day five of the prestigious festival. **6.10** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.00** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **9.10** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **11.50** Film: Scarface (1983) **12.10** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: Scarface (1983) **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** Film: Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
11.00 Crack in the World (1965) **1.00** Romancing the Stone (1984) **3.10** Shark Tale (2004) **4.55** Rio 2 (2014) **6.55** Fantastic Four (2005) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.45** Assault on Precinct 13 (1976) **12.30** Carnage Park (2016) **2.10** Excision (2012) **3.50** Close



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CHOICE



Gareth Southgate

MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (BBC1, 12.10pm)
England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of both sides' second Group G match, taking place at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Russia. Gareth Southgate's men will be looking to make it out of the group stages of the World Cup for the first time since 2010 after their poor performance at the tournament four years ago. The Three Lions drew one and lost two fixtures in 2014, failing to win a game in a group that also featured Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica. Recently announced captain Harry Kane will lead his side out in his first-ever World Cup and will be expected to provide the goals that England have desperately needed in the group stages in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Japan v Senegal (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.10** **A Question of Sport.** Sue Barker asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz, with celebrity guests joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell. (R) **6.40** **BBC News.** **7.00** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present from West Sussex, where they meet people who pay to spend their holidays staying in a church. Plus, a plan to reduce food waste and a report on the importance of beetles in pollinating plants. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, where items brought to be valued include a trunk that has travelled the world, a Japanese jar found in a water tank, a chair with a moving story, a Russian brooch that requires a secret code to be unlocked, and a locket that proves that not everyone has heard of the Beatles. **9.00** **Poldark.** Ross makes his maiden speech in Parliament, and is reunited with an older Geoffrey Charles. While her husband is in London, Demelza has to deal with the fall-out from a failing mine and a broken-hearted Drake. Dwight and Caroline have a daughter, but their happiness is short-lived after a shocking diagnosis. Ossie is told a terrible secret by a dying parishioner, and hopes to trade the information to George, who is seeking a way to reclaim his lost political power by buying land he can corruptly control. Rebecca Front (The Thick of It) guest stars. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Action from the day's group fixtures. **11.20** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.** England v Panama. Another chance to see both sides' second Group G match. **1.00** **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.05** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 **Coast.** **6.45** **Glorious Gardens** from Above. (R) **7.30** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.30** **Countryfile.** (R) **9.25** **The Beechgrove Garden.** **10.00** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30** **Spring Kitchen** with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.15** **Best Bakes Ever.** (R) **12.40** **Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** (R) **1.40** **Points of View.** **1.55** **Songs of Praise.** **2.30** **Tennis: Queen's.** The Fever-Tee Championships singles final. **5.30** **Million Pound Menu.** (R) **6.30** **Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess the profit-making potential of a final batch of business plans, including an idea for a child's toothbrush that doubles as a mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series. (R) **7.30** **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.** Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer embark on an angling trip round the UK. The first stop is Norfolk, where they fish for tench and reminisce about their childhood. (R) **8.00** **Expedition Volcano.** Part two of two. The team takes a helicopter to the crater of an active volcano that has rarely been studied. The mountain is surrounded by forests, which provide cover for armed militant groups, and the scientists will only have a few short hours to gather information. They then move on to the surrounding area, a dangerous landscape marked by craters from past eruptions. (R) **9.00** **Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate.** New series. Documentary following the staff of the New York Times and exploring the critical issues facing journalism in the wake of Donald Trump's presidency. The first episode examines the first three months of Trump's time in office, as the possibility of Russian interference in the election emerges and the media is condemned as an enemy of the people by the new president. **10.15** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **11.00** **Film: Oasis: Supersonic.** (2016). Documentary about the early years of the Manchester band. **1.00** **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R) **2.00** **Holby City.** (R) **3.00** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Sooty.** **6.10** **Grizzly Tales** for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** **Grizzly Tales** for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** **Dino Dana.** (R) **6.50** **Mission Employable.** (R) **6.55** **The Oddbods Show.** (R) **7.05** **Ninjago: Tournament of Elements.** (R) **7.30** **The Haunted Hathaways.** (R) **7.55** **Drop Dead Weird.** **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** **Zoe Ball** on Sunday. **9.25** **Countrywise.** (R) **9.55** **Midsomer Murders.** (R) **11.50** **The Best of the Voice Worldwide.** **12.50** **ITV News: Weather.** **12.55** **Film: St. Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold.** (2009) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **3.00** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** (R) **4.00** **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** (R) **5.00** **The Chase.** (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.05** **Regional Programme: Weather.** **6.15** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Poland v Colombia (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch introduces coverage of both teams' second match in Group H, which comes from Kazan Arena in Russia. The sides have not met since a friendly in 2006, when Colombia claimed a 2-1 away win. Given the South Americans' greater recent World Cup experience, they will be hopeful of another victory this evening. However, the Poles have a team that cannot be taken lightly and were in impressive form in qualifying, comfortably topping a group containing the likes of Denmark, Romania and Montenegro. In contrast, Colombia's qualification campaign went right to the wire, with a 1-1 draw in their final match away to Peru, and Chile's 3-0 defeat in Brazil, allowing them to finish one point clear of the Peruvians and Chileans in the final automatic position. With commentary by Jon Champion and Ally McCoist, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane and Ian Wright. **9.15** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the second of two special World Cup editions, with contestants Shayne Ward, Paul Merson and Eni Aluko trying to guess familiar phrases. **10.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.30** **Flights from Hell: Caught on Camera.** Three-part series featuring clips of things that can go wrong at 30,000 feet. (R) **11.25** **The Big Fish Off.** (R) **12.15** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.** (R) **3.50** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 **Motor Sport: Caterham.** **6.40** **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.** **7.05** **Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship.** **8.00** **Fraser.** (R) **8.30** **Fraser.** (R) **9.00** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** (R) **1.00** **Film: The Core.** (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **3.35** **Film: Dante's Peak.** (1997) Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan. **5.40** **Bang on Budget.** **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick celebrates his birthday with a hot air balloon ride over the chateau at sunrise, before setting to work in the kitchen making his own jam and alcohol from the vast quantities of fresh fruit waiting to be harvested in the garden. Angel starts work on a new project of her own – building a geodesic dome on top of a floating platform. (R) **8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the quarter final, in which the five remaining teams must impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin in two challenges on the theme of childhood. The first task is to create a tiered macaron cake and two types of lollipops, before the bakers move on to create a fairytale showpiece combining sugar and chocolate. **9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred finds unexpected allies and obstacles in her search for a way to protect Hannah. The Commander prepares for the dedication of a new Red Centre, and Nick struggles with his new assignment. **10.15** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones is joined by David Coulthard to present action from the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. Mercedes and Red Bull will have been keen to bounce back here after Sebastian Vettel had a dominant weekend in Canada last time out. **12.10** **Gogglebox: The Best Bits.** Memorable critiques delivered by the armchair critics. (R) **1.05** **The Last Leg.** A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **2.00** **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Black rhino Kitani is due to give birth at Chester Zoo. (R) **2.55** **Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** Three rival sellers in Bournemouth try and clinch a sale from buyer Steve. (R) **3.50** **My Kitchen Rules.** The grand final. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake! Little Princess.** **6.10** **Wissper.** (R) **6.20** **Puppy Cat.** (R) **6.30** **Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **6.35** **The Secret Life of Puppies.** (R) **6.40** **Moly.** (R) **6.45** **Simon.** (R) **6.50** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **7.00** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.15** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **7.30** **Fireman Sam.** (R) **7.45** **Rusty Rivets.** (R) **8.00** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **8.15** **Nella the Princess Knight.** (R) **8.35** **Noddy: Toyland Detective.** (R) **8.50** **Floogals.** (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.35** **Digby Dragon.** (R) **9.50** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **10.00** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30** **Access.** **10.35** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.25** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.25** **Inside Kensington Palace.** (R) **1.20** **Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge.** (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole. **3.05** **Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War.** (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **4.05** **5 News Update.** **4.10** **Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War.** (2002) Concluded. **5.20** **Film: Serendipity.** (2001) **6.20** **5 News Update.** **6.25** **Film: Serendipity.** (2001) Concluded. **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Old Trafford. **8.00** **41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi.** Cameras reveal the nation's most extreme animal lovers and witness what can happen when their obsessions get out of hand, featuring a couple who live with 41 dogs. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Film: Blackhat.** (2015) Premiere. A computer hacker is enlisted by the FBI to help find the terrorist who is using his hi-tech code to commit cyber crimes. Crime drama, starring Chris Hemsworth. **10.00** **5 News Update.** **10.05** **Film: Blackhat.** (2015) Concluded. **11.25** **Film: Hummingbird.** (2013) A former soldier is drawn into the London underworld, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. **1.15** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Wentworth Prison.** (R) **4.00** **Now That's Funny!** (R) **4.45** **House Doctor.** (R) **5.10** **House Busters.** (R) **5.35** **Wildlife SOS.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 **Nigel Kennedy Plays Bach & Gershwin: BBC Biggest Weekend 8.00** **Cruel Sea: The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster 9.00** **World War Two: A Timewatch Guide 10.00** **Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered 11.00** **Night on Film – An A-Z of the Dark 12.00** **The Art of Scandinavia 1.00** **David Starkey's Music & Monarchy 2.00** **Classic Quartets at the BBC 3.00** **Cruel Sea: The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster 4.00** **Close**
ITV2
12.40 **Take Me Out 1.50** **You've Been Framed! Gold 2.50** **Film: Beethoven (1992) 3.50** **FYI Daily 3.55** **Film: Beethoven (1992) 4.40** **Film: Happy Feet (2006) 5.40** **FYI Daily 5.45** **Film: Happy Feet (2006) 6.45** **Film: Step Up 3 (2010) 7.50** **FYI Daily 7.55** **Film: Step Up 3 (2010) 9.00** **Love Island 10.00** **Love Island: Afterdark 11.05** **Family Guy 12.05** **American Dad! 1.05** **Celebrity 1.50** **Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15** **Screening 5.45** **ITV2**
Nightsleeping 5.45 **ITV2**
ITV3
1.20 **Rosemary & Thyme 5.00** **Vera 9.00** **Unforgotten 11.00** **Classic Brit Awards 2018 12.30** **Blue Murder 1.55** **Liverpool 1 2.50** **Road to Avonlea 4.30** **Rosemary & Thyme 5.45** **ITV3** **Nightscreen**
ITV4
11.15 **Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. 6.20** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 7.20** **FYI Daily 7.25** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 8.05** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) 9.10** **FYI Daily 9.15** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) 10.00** **Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) 11.00** **FYI Daily 11.05** **Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) 12.20** **River Monsters 1.20** **Minder 2.30** **The Protectors 3.00** **Teleshopping**
E4
11.00 **The Goldbergs 1.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.35** **Young Sheldon 2.05** **The Big Bang Theory 6.05** **Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) 8.00** **The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special 9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00** **Gogglebox 11.00** **Gogglebox Australia 12.05** **The Big Bang Theory 1.05** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.05** **Gogglebox Australia 11.00**
Film4
11.40 **Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) 1.00** **The Jewel of the Nile (1985) 3.10** **How to Train Your Dragon (2010) 5.00** **Night at the Museum (2006) 7.10** **The Cold Light of Day (2012) 9.00** **Lone Survivor (2013) 11.20** **Battle: Los Angeles (2011) 1.35** **Quadruphenia (1979) 4.00** **Close**

A new life

When former specialist nurse Sheila Haycock finally found a solution for her failing teeth she quite literally received a prescription for a new life . . . and so did her husband, Dave.

Emotionally broken by a catalogue of dental disasters, for a whole year she suffered pain every day and her confidence plummeted. "Each day was a nightmare."

"Every day I'd have a new ulcer in my mouth. I couldn't eat properly, stopped going out and couldn't face looking at myself in a mirror – in fact, I'd cover them up."

"I'd speak and laugh with my hand in front of my mouth, avoid having my picture taken and couldn't chew properly – if I did go out, I'd always have to order lasagne because it was soft food," she recalls.

Terrified of dentist

Sheila's problems began when her natural teeth became mobile and braved her worst fears, having a full clearance to make way for an upper and lower denture.

Terrified of the dentist, she adds: "I thought it was impossible for things to get worse, but nothing could have prepared me for the next 12 months. The first time I took my teeth out and looked in the mirror, psychologically, I was beside myself."



Sheila and Dave Haycock - a new outlook on life

"I'd been so preoccupied with mastering my fear of the dentist, I hadn't worked through the impact of losing my teeth would have on me. It was devastating."

Initially, Dave confesses to "not being that helpful," explaining her native teeth "needed to go and to deal with it."

"I know, I told him," says Sheila, "but they were mine!"

Even the loss of a single tooth is now clinically recognised as a potential precursor for a mourning process.

Adds Dave: "She was upset and I felt utterly helpless. The guilt of it all . . ."

I wanted to help, but couldn't. I could eat what ever I wanted, but she couldn't and every day – every day – there was a new problem to address."

Retired nurse Sheila got a new smile after a year of dental misery, husband Dave admits he too is now enjoying the life changes it's brought about.

Predictably reassuring

My experience with Steven and his team was the best. Getting the implants really is money well spent.

- Roy Phillpott

Steven's professionalism gave me the confidence and assurance that they could resolve my problem.

- Norma Aston

When I first saw my teeth I thought they looked just like my real teeth.

- Vicki Ball

Sheila, who specialised in wound dressings, admits she felt trapped, having been assured her jawbone density would be too poor to support implants.

"My dentures seemed to be rotating and rolling around and I hated the denture glue. I'd use it and as soon as I'd try to eat something, within 15 minutes my teeth would be unstable again. I was mortified having to use

it over and over again. I was not coping."

Taking advice from her daughter, who had received a recommendation from a work colleague that North Street Dental and Implant Clinic could help, Sheila headed for Dudley.

"Within 15 minutes of walking in to the surgery Steven [practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng)] was helping me," she says.

As a temporary measure, an oral impression was taken and her painful dentures lined with a soft material that would help ease the discomfort and improve fit.

'Own teeth'

Sheila was prescribed a traditional top prosthetic and a lower over-denture, retained on two implants. The surgery was carried out under sedation by North Street's clinical lead, Owain Rees BDS DGD(UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC61576.

"All I can say is that it has completely changed my life. There's nothing I can't eat and the implant prosthetic doesn't feel false. It's comparable for me to my own teeth. When I first saw my new teeth in the mirror, I thought who's this person? They looked natural, just like real teeth," says Sheila.

Dave, a former civil engineer, adds: "She's completely different. It's been life-changing for me too and we can now get on with our retirement."

Both keen gardeners, they agree the financial investment is in a quality life choice. "It's the best thing she's ever had done," adds Dave.

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Stolen Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A detective who specialises in finding missing children is banned from the case when her own teenager is abducted. But determined to find the girl, she defies her superiors and embarks on her own investigation to save her flesh and blood before it is too late. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth, Nicole Munoz, Steve Bacic and Matthew Kevin Anderson. (2015)

TUESDAY

Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Ex-Wife Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman's ex-husband offers to help expland her floral business, but his his vengeful estranged wife seems determined to make the pair's life a living hell. Thriller, starring Marguerite Moreau, Jordan Belfi and Arianne Zucker. (2017)



Rocky III, Thursday, ITV, 10.55pm

THURSDAY

Rocky III, ITV, 10.55pm

World heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Balboa settles down into a life of luxury - but a cloud appears on the horizon in the shape of ambitious contender Clubber Lang, whose brutal fighting style represents a serious threat to his title. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone, Mr T, Burgess Meredith, Talia Shire, Burt Young, Carl Weathers and Hulk Hogan. (1982)

FRIDAY

Mad Max 2, ITV, 10.45pm

A former cop haunted by his tragic past roams the wasteland of Australia in the aftermath of a nuclear war. He arrives at a besieged settlement and grudgingly helps protect the residents from a horde of marauding bikers who want to get hold of their valuable supply of petrol. Futuristic adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1981)

Susanna and Piers capture the mood of the nation

Have you ever thought to yourself: "I just don't have enough Piers Morgan in my life".

Perhaps not. However, for those fans of Good Morning Britain who do enjoy listening to Morgan's controversial views at breakfast time, there is some good news – the former journalist and his co-host Susanna Reid are presenting a one-off prime-time edition of the show.

Announcing the programme on GMB a few weeks back, Morgan said it would be "this show, after the watershed", so no doubt the already controversial presenter will relish the opportunity to let off even more steam than he does at 8am.

He continued: "You know you think you've had enough of me in the mornings? Good news Britain, you're going to get a load of me in the evenings because we are having our first ever Good Evening Britain."

"We are coming to prime time – we're actually very excited about it. I won't have to get out of bed for that

until about mid-afternoon, it's going to be great."

Susanna jokingly added: "We've made the big time!"

Former tabloid editor Morgan is no stranger to controversy, and if anything he seems to have stepped up his provocation levels since his introduction as permanent GMB presenter in November 2015.

In the last few years, he has slammed model and actress Amber Rose for a knickerless tweet, taunted Hilary Clinton supporters after Donald Trump's presidential election victory, criticised a women's march in America, feuded with Harry Potter author JK Rowling, and is constantly trolling Kim Kardashian.

More recently, Piers made what many people thought was his most controversial point ever – stating that it is better to put the milk in a cup before the tea bag when making a brew.

In case you haven't noticed, there's a football match taking place this evening – England take on

Belgium in what could prove to be a pivotal final group game for Gareth Southgate's men at Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia – so Morgan and Reid will have plenty to discuss with their guests.

Depending on their previous results against Tunisia and Panama, the Three Lions could need a positive result against Roberto Martinez's talented Belgian side which came into the tournament as one of the favourites and includes Premier League stars Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Thibaut Courtois.

The GMB team will be gauging the mood of the nation following the big match, but whatever the result, Morgan will no doubt have plenty to say, as football is one of his passions.

He is a lifelong fan of Arsenal and was an outspoken critic of the club including now former manager Arsène Wenger on social media and his sacking.



Good Evening Britain, Thursday, ITV, 9.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Britain's Best Junior Doctors BBC2, 7.30pm

New series. Jo Brand hosts a quiz in which two teams of junior doctors from teaching hospitals around Britain, with in-house medical expert Dr Helen Lawal on hand to explain the medical jargon. The first heat features University Hospitals of Leicester v Kettering General Hospital, and the contestants tackle an array of rigorous questions ranging from diagnosing a patient's symptoms, prioritising cases in a mock A&E department, and getting stuck in with their chosen specialism, and the teams are competing for the highest score of the week to win a place in Friday's final.

TUESDAY

NHS at 70 - Live BBC2, 8pm

As you may have noticed if you've been paying attention to the schedules lately, the National Health Service celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. But while we may be looking back at its history, what does its future hold? That's one of the questions posed by this live event, which comes from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Hosted by Anita Rani and Nick Robinson in front of an audience of staff and patients, the programme

looks at how the NHS has grown since its inception in 1948 and explores the challenges facing it today, drawing on some new and exclusive research. As well as finding out how much the public are prepared to pay to keep the NHS going, Robinson, who was recently treated for cancer himself, looks at how the service compares to health provisions in other countries.

WEDNESDAY

The Highland Midwife Channel 5, 8pm

New series. Morven treats a woman who wants a home birth, but when she is still in labour after more than 30 hours, a difficult decision must be made. Hazel helps a woman preparing for her third C-section, who fears she will not survive the procedure following complications with her previous births - and with her military husband away from home, it's up to the midwife to keep her calm. Finally, Ruth finds herself facing the possibility of delivering a baby in the back on an ambulance while they are still an hour away from the hospital.

THURSDAY

FIFA World Cup 2018 ITV, 6.15pm

England v Belgium (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both sides' final Group G match from Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia. England will be hoping to continue their good record against today's opponents, having won 15 of the 21 meetings between the two sides, the last occasion being a 1-0 victory back in June 2012. However, Gareth Southgate's men have won only four games at the group stages since France 98, and will be looking to give England fans more hope that they can progress further in the tournament than in previous years. The Three Lions will also be keen to improve on the fact that they haven't progressed past the quarter-finals since Italia 1990. Belgium also haven't made it past the same stage



FIFA World Cup 2018, Thursday, ITV, 6.15pm

since they finished fourth at the 1986 tournament in Mexico, when they were defeated 2-0 by Argentina in the semi-finals.

FRIDAY

Building Britain's Canals Channel 5, 8pm

Writer and historian Dan Jones examines the creation of the picturesque Kennet and Avon Canal, which was born from a murky pool of dirty deals and demanding landowners. It came into being thanks to the genius of young engineer John Rennie, whose inspiration and innovations created a waterway that linked Bristol to London. Dan discovers how Rennie plotted the canal's route using the most basic of surveying instruments and marvels at the engineering innovations that made it all possible, such as the water-powered pumping station at Claverton. Last in the series.

The Bridge BBC2, 9pm

The homeless girls discover the identity of the killer following an encounter with psychologist Niels Thormod, and try to get in touch with Henrik to pass on what they know. However, they are forced to flee for their lives when the murderer comes looking for them.

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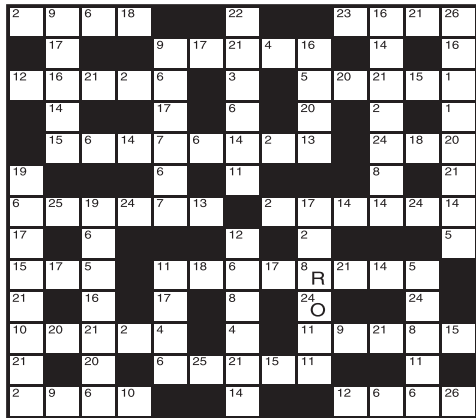
Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

BRAIN GYM

No.485

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	O	U	P	W	K	L	R	H	S	Q	A	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	D	I	Z	X	E	T	M	V	B	N	J	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

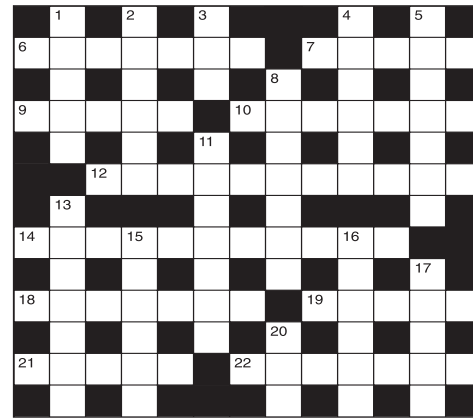
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Arrive round the vessel to join together (7)
 7. See 21 Across.
 9. Almost provide protection from fallen debris (5)
 10. A group of actors on strike rejected (4,3)
 12. Adopt a relaxed position and tolerate a bit of banter (5,2,4)
 14. Not a single mistake by the serviceman! (6,5)
 18. See 16 Down.
 19. Social blunder in showing affection (5)
 21 & 7Ac. Goes into hiding and arranges an insurance policy (5,5)
 22. Inability to remember a name is changed (7)

Down

1. Soft cry of pain associated with the marsupial (5)
 2. Take exception to the thing (6)
 3. See 20 Down.
 4 & 17Dn. This contains an amount of spirit to go with it (6,2,3)
 5. Politely ask about a search (7)
 8. Moving house - you'll need a motor and a pantechonicon (7)
 11. Tacit description of postponed lawsuit (7)
 13. Unsatisfactory statute, but it offered some relief (4,3)
 15. Fat goat (6)
 16 & 18Ac. Chief Scribes? (6,7)
 17. See 4 Down.
 20 & 3Dn. Threaten the little brat with death! (6)



Quick Clues:

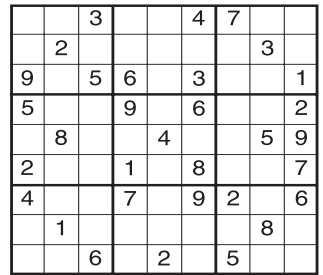
Across

6. Sportive (7)
 7. Enchant (5)
 9. Wide (5)
 10. Pacify (7)
 12. Banishment (11)
 14. Allowable (11)
 18. Stockings (7)
 19. Drive (5)
 21. Browbeat (5)
 22. Tire (7)

Down

1. Plank (5)
 2. Compassionate (6)
 3. Muzzle (3)
 4. Menace (6)
 5. Liberty (7)
 8. Shorten (7)
 11. Associate (7)
 13. Seemliness (7)
 15. Principally (6)
 16. Clear (6)
 17. Meeting place (5)
 20. Wages (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	5	3	4	2	9	1	7	8
4	9	7	8	5	1	2	6	3
2	8	1	7	6	3	4	5	9
7	2	8	3	1	6	5	9	4
3	1	6	9	4	5	7	8	2
9	4	5	2	7	8	6	3	1
8	6	2	5	3	4	9	1	7
1	7	9	6	8	2	3	4	5
5	3	4	1	9	7	8	2	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Come to rest; 7 Align; 8 Minaret; 10 Lose one's; 11 Step; 13 Damask; 15 Itches; 17 Wife; 18 Turncoat; 21 Yule-log; 22 Apace; 23 Friendless. Down: 1 Coins; 2 Mongooses; 3 Tamper; 4 Ring; 5 Stretch; 6 Called away; 9 Type-setter; 12 Stone age; 14 Muffler; 16 Purged; 19 Opals; 20 Flee. QUICK - Across: 1 Stupendous; 7 Chart; 8 Contact; 10 Evermore; 11 Pair; 13 Treble; 15 Cinema; 17 Away; 18 Response; 21 Explore; 22 Argue; 23 Persistent. Down: 1 Stale; 2 Untimely; 3 Escort; 4 Done; 5 Unaware; 6 Accentuate; 9 Threatened; 12 Displace; 14 Example; 16 Recess; 19 Night; 20 Toss.

Quiz

- To which collection of stories does How The Leopard Got His Spots belong?
- Which city is at the centre of the Asian dollar market?
- Which former tennis star took Harry Carpenter's place at Wimbledon?
- Which silk fabric's name is derived from the Persian for 'spun'?
- Who was Henry VIII's last wife?
- Who is the chief god of Scandinavian mythology?
- What nationality was Mata Hari?
- Of which country are the Chatham Islands part?
- What sort of creature is a knot?
- What do the letters J.P. stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Parsifal and Lohengrin; 2 0; 3 Carbon; 4 The Atlantic; 5 Rembrandt; 6 Office of Fair Trading; 7 Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin; 8 Epilepsy; 9 Dennis Potter; 10 Honduras.

Niner: SHOWERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

79228
93221
62547

gives a Biblical character,
gives a second Biblical character,
gives a third Biblical character.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -

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Island hop heaven is a cruise

A GREEK island and Turkey escape is the best option for seafaring first-timers.

Up until now, I'd never been on a cruise before. As a frequent sufferer of sea sickness and loather of organised fun, the idea of being stuck on a floating city never quite appealed. So, a three-day cruise, travelling to two countries and stopping at a whopping four Greek Islands, seemed like the perfect opportunity to challenge my preconceptions.

As I arrive in Athens to board the 1,664-passenger Celestyal Olympia liner, I feel anxious. What if I get claustrophobic? What if I get the nasty norovirus bug that always seems to be popping up in the press?

Luckily, as soon as I'm shown to my cabin, I feel at ease. While my room, equipped with two single beds and a shower, is little more than a cubby, it's cosy and I feel safe. Exploring the ship, I quickly discover boredom is not going to be an option – there are multiple restaurants, bars, shops, performance rooms (this includes a disco and a theatre), a spa and swimming pools. Most importantly, the sprawling ship is impeccably clean throughout.

Time to party

Our first island stop is the 'party island' of the Greek Isles, Mykonos. Walking down the maze of stone streets littered with high-end bars and boutiques, it's easy to see why this island has an ultra-glamorous reputation. I enjoy gin cocktails in an al fresco bar, while trendy revellers dance to thumping Eurobeats. A 10.30pm curfew sends me scurrying back to the ship, but there's plenty of opportunities to party on-board.

Feline fun in Turkey

Come morning, we're already in another country – Turkey. Disembarking at Kusadasi, I head out for a guided tour of Ephesus, an Ancient Greek city dating back to the 10th century BC. Impressive ruins include an ancient theatre that once seated up to 25,000 and



Isle be there – the windy island of Mykonos



Picture perfect – the beautiful island of Santorini

even the remains of a brothel. With a few hours to spare back on board before our next stop, I have time for an invigorating massage at the spa.

Finding pure peace

Next stop is Patmos, a Greek island with a spiritual atmosphere. Climbing the steep steps of the 11th century Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, I'm blown away by views of far-reaching farmland, dotted with pink island flowers. Another unforgettable site is the Cave of Apocalypse, where John of Patmos received the visions which he recorded in the Book of Revelation.

On-board entertainment

With a heavy heart I leave this haven of tranquillity and am thrown into something quite different – night-time cruise entertainment. Sat on a velvet armchair in front of a stage, I'm transported back in time to Vegas showrooms of the 1950s – and although the cabaret entertainment is certainly cheesy, it's also hilarious.

Next stop is Crete, with a tour of the Minoan Palace of Knossos (built at the beginning of the Middle Minoan period from 2000-1580 BC), where the legend of the Minotaur was born. Today, 70 peacocks roam the ruins.

Picture perfect sunsets

Our penultimate stop is the island of Santorini. Yes, it's crowded, but you can easily dodge the masses by wandering the labyrinth of gleaming white streets. The wines cultivated here are excellent and served at many of the bars.

Before getting off the ship at Piraeus on the mainland, I end my voyage with yet another session of karaoke. As I knock back another cheeky G&T, I can't help but marvel about how wrong I was about cruises.

LAURA HANNAM

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- ✓ Guided tour of the external sets of Coronation Street (lasting approximately 90 minutes)
- ✓ En-route visit to Chester

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- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Visits to Beamish & Durham Christmas Market

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by Coach **only £129**



Kew Gardens at Christmas

Departing Saturday 1 Dec
from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

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- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Excursion to Kew Gardens

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

25

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, June 21, 2018

Extended detached on The Northway is well maintained

AN EXTENDED detached property, 158 Northway, Sedgley, lies in an ever popular area, just a short distance away from amenities and Sedgley town centre.

Being well maintained and having majority double glazing and warm air central heating, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £195,950 with no chain. This three-bedroomed family home has off-road parking for numerous vehicles and a fully private rear garden.

Its good size accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, a 21ft living room with a dining area off, a breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a garage to the front and a useful storage area.

It has a driveway approach leading to the entrance porch. The living room has a briquette fireplace and surround, a single glazed window and a double glazed sliding patio door to rear garden. It has a dining area off which has double doors to the breakfast kitchen.

The breakfast kitchen has a stainless steel sink top with fitted base units and decorative laminate work tops and a range of fitted wall cupboards. There are double glazed sliding patio doors to the rear garden.

Bedroom one has fitted wardrobes with mirror fronted sliding doors and a double glazed window. Bedroom two has double glazed window, as does bedroom three. The bathroom has a white suite comprising of a panelled bath with a shower fitting, a shower cubicle with a shower fitting, a pedestal wash hand basin and a low flush WC. Ceramic wall and floor tiling are also fitted, and there is a double glazed window.

The garden is fully enclosed, private and not overlooked backing onto parkland at the rear. It has a paved patio area, a garden shed, numerous flowers and flowering shrubs. The garage has an up and over door, light and power points.

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts Estate Agents

TEL: 01902 686868

EMAIL: sedgley@skitts.net



KEY FEATURES

KEY FEATURES

Extended detached

Popular location

3 bedrooms

Garage & storage area

No chain



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GREENLEIGHS, Sedgley

Price £380,000

- Dormer bungalow
- Favoured Sedgley location
- Renovated to high standard
- FOUR bedrooms

EPC rating: D

- Three reception rooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- Excellent size garage
- Landscaped rear garden



CHARNWOOD AVENUE,
Sedgley

Price £250,000

- A beautiful 'dormer' house
- Sedgley location
- EPC rating: F
- FOUR bedrooms
- Full of potential



ALDERDALE AVENUE,
Northway

Price £259,950

- A beautiful detached
- Envious location
- EPC rating: D
- Close by to popular schools
- Conservatory



KINGFISHER CLOSE,
Sedgley

Price £239,950

- A modern link-detached
- Envious Northway
- EPC rating: TBC
- Dining kitchen
- Garage and driveway



WOLVERHAMPTON
ROAD Sedgley

Price £220,000

- A beautiful Cottage
- Full of character and charm
- EPC rating: F
- TWO bedrooms
- TWO reception rooms



GREAT WESTERN WAY
Kingswinford

Price £195,000

- Himley View Kingswinford
- Only 3 years old
- EPC rating: B
- NHBC guarantee
- THREE bedrooms



CHARLES HAYWOOD
DRIVE Sedgley

Price £138,950

- FORMER SHOWHOME
- Behind the blind institute
- EPC rating: C
- TWO bedrooms
- Modern Open Plan style



CLUB ROW, Upper Gornal

Price £137,500

- Modern semi-detached
- TWO bedrooms
- EPC rating: TBC
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Pleasant cul-de-sac



AUTUMN DRIVE
Lower Gornal

Price £129,950

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Quiet cul-de-sac
- EPC rating: D
- Potential rear parking
- SPACIOUS accommodation



GOWER ROAD, Sedgley

- Modern link-detached
- Thoughtfully extended
- Garage conversion
- Lounge and dining room
- EPC rating: TBC



Price £265,000

- Conservatory
- THREE bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Cul-de-sac location

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DUMBLEBERRY AVENUE, Sedgley Price £750

- LET WITHIN A WEEK
- Three bedroom
- EPC rating: D
- Lounge and dining room
- Extended accommodation



RIPLEY GROVE Price £460

- ONE bedrooms flat
- Ground floor
- EPC rating: B
- Allocated parking
- Open plan style



BEACON RISE, Sedgley Price £625

- THREE bedroom house
- Driveway parking
- EPC rating: E
- Lounge and diner
- Spacious accommodation



HIGH STREET, Sedgley Price £380

- ONE bedroom flat
- Character property
- EPC rating: E
- Large lounge
- Sedgley Centre



KENT STREET, Upper Gornal Price £400

- Double room to let
- House share
- Communal gardens
- Communal Kitchen
- EPC rating: B
- Private Bathroom
- One double bedroom
- Some bills included
- Sorry, No DSS



DORMSTON LODGE, Sedgley Price £120,000

- TWO bedroom apartment
- Open plan living
- Modern accommodation
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC rating: C
- Within Sedgley centre
- Parking space
- Private gated entry
- Viewing highly recommended

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WALL HEATH, Ostler Close

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£475,000



HIMLEY, School Road

A **SUBSTANTIAL** DETACHED COTTAGE with a **LARGE** and **BEAUTIFULLY** ESTABLISHED **PRIVATE GARDEN** SETTING, running down to the stream with fields beyond, offering a **LARGE GATED DRIVEWAY** with **SUBSTANTIAL** DETACHED **DOUBLE GARAGE** with Large Work Shop & Store. The accommodation is **INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS** and Attractively Presented throughout, including **FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS**. EPC E

New price

£379,950



WORDSLEY, Barnett Lane

Enjoying a **VERY LARGE LEVEL SUNNY REAR GARDEN**, this **DECEPTIVE** **TRADITIONAL** DETACHED FAMILY HOME is well placed for desirable schools. The **EXTENDED** accommodation is **BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED** and includes a **LARGE CONSERVATORY** and **THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS** with **ENSUITE**. With **FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY** EPC E

New price

£337,500



DUDLEY, Hillmeads Drive, Oakham

Wonderfully presented **DETACHED** property situated in the popular **OAKHAM** area of Dudley. This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating & double glazing and also boast a spacious hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, study, guest W/C, utility, **FOUR BEDROOMS**, ensuite to master, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, double garage, driveway to front. **VIEWING ESSENTIAL**. EPC C **SEDGLEY**

Offers in the region of £329,950



COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill

OUTSTANDING, spacious, 'landmark' family residence (on 3 floors) overlooking open aspect comprising; hall, magnificent 26'5" through living/dining room (with multi-fuel stove), 21'6" **CONSERVATORY**, first quality 17 ft kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Three double bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), house bathroom. 25'2" fourth bedroom. Gardens, parking. EPC: C **SEDGLEY**

New price

WAS £329,950...NOW £320,000



DUDLEY, Oakham Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Occupying a corner position on the sought after Oakham Road, this wonderfully presented **DETACHED** family home has lots to offer. As well as having gas central heating & double glazing, this property also boasts; porch, hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, refitted ground floor shower room, **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, garage, garden, driveway & garden to front. EPC: D **SEDGLEY**.

Offers in the region of £244,950



LOWER GORNAL, Cotwall End Road, Straits

Occupying a semi-rural position within short distance to Sedgley Town Centre & Gornal Village. Well presented **DETACHED** dormer style bungalow, comprising of gas central heating & double glazing as well as boasting **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom plus Jack & Jill' en suite, lounge-dining room, modern breakfast-kitchen, off road parking via electric gates & garage with electric door. Viewing essential. EPC: C **SEDGLEY**

Offers in the region of £219,950



DUDLEY, Regency Court, Off Dibdale Road West

Milking Bank Periphery - **WITH 180 DEGREE PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS** - an absolutely **OUTSTANDING**, top floor luxury apartment (with lift access) with gated access to meticulously maintained grounds. Accommodation provides; reception hall, lounge with bay, tremendous dining kitchen. **THREE BEDROOMS** (Principal with wardrobes & shower room en suite), house bathroom. Two car parking. EPC: D **SEDGLEY**

Offers in the region of £195,000



SEDGLEY, Northway

Wonderfully presented semi-detached property situated on sought Northway' development with gas central heating & double glazing this fantastic home also boasts; hallway, living room, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, w.c. **THREE BEDROOMS**, bathroom, garage with utility area, landscaped rear garden, driveway to front, Viewing essential! EPC: C **SEDGLEY**.

Offers in the region of £189,950



Bungalow is set on a great corner plot

TIPTON
£220,000

A unique detached bungalow on a corner plot in Keelinge Street, Tipton, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £220,000.

The property is on a corner plot and is located a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

This spacious home briefly comprises a lounge, a conservatory, a fully fitted kitchen, three double bedrooms, an en-suite off bedroom two, a shower room, a loft room, a garage, block paved driveway and a rear garden.

In more detail the front and rear gardens are attractively hard landscaped and the driveway provides ample parking space.

For further details, or to book a viewing, call Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255.



Immaculate three-bedroom property in a popular spot

KINGS NORTON
£239,950 <<<

Being immaculate, modern and spacious, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Monksway, Kings Norton, is set in a highly sought after new development in Walkers Heath.

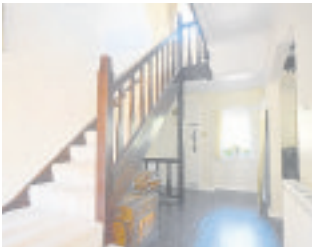
A prestigious property, in a corner position, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £239,950.

It is ideally placed for commuting.

It has a spacious hallway, a peaceful lounge, an open plan kitchen/diner with integrated appliances and patio doors.

To the first floor the light landing gives access to the master bedroom with a generous built-in wardrobe and en-suite shower room. The second bedroom is another double room and the third is a single.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.



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Well-presented three-bedroom terrace is near to amenities

WEST BROMWICH
£149,950

This well presented three-bedroomed terraced house in Cordley Street, West Bromwich, is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £149,950.

The property is conveniently located a short distance away from local schools, travel links and is a short walk away from the town centre and all of its amenities which include the New Square shopping complex.

The accommodation briefly comprises a sitting room, a lounge/dining room, a kitchen, a downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms and a rear garden. The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this property.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in this sale.

Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255.



Charming two-bed apartment is spacious

TIPTON
£85,000

An ideal property for a first-time buyer or investor, this two-bedroomed ground floor apartment in Dudley Road, Tipton, lies a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

Currently tenanted, the property would achieve an approximate yield of around seven per cent.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £85,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises a lounge, a kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom and an allocated parking space. In more detail the dining room area is of a good size and is carpeted.

Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255 for further information.



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Multi-award winner gets even better

By Carmel Stewart

When Toyota decide to make changes to a model they do so in style. Anyone driving round in the current Yaris is benefitting from a £76m investment which resulted in more than 900 new parts for the multi-award-winning model.

The result is a new-look front and rear with redesigned bumpers, grille and light clusters plus new exterior colours, wheel trims and a freshened-up interior which includes a new six-inch screen on the centre console.

Sensors

More safety kit has also been added with pre-collision, autonomous braking, automatic high beam lights whereby the sensors detect the lights of oncoming vehicles and traffic ahead while monitoring the brightness of streetlights and will automatically switch between high and low beam.

As well as the existing Active, Icon, Design and Excel trims an additional Icon Tech has been added. There is also a Bi-tone variant which matches interior and exterior colours.

There is space enough for five and, with a 286-litre boot, their luggage as well, provided the bags are of the soft variety.

Under the bonnet a new 1.5litre Euro 6 petrol engine has been added to the list. Ten per cent more efficient than the 1.3litre unit it replaces, it is expected to be top choice for most drivers. The other engine option is the 1.0litre 69bhp petrol unit linked to a five-speed manual transmission.

The importance of the hybrid is evidenced by its sales with 40per cent of buyers across Europe opting for the dual power French-



There's a 286-litre boot and space for five passengers



More safety kit has been added to the Toyota Yaris

made model with its 1.5litre petrol engine ably assisted by its electric motor and linked to Toyota's CVT automated transmission.

Behind the wheel is a battle between good and evil. Below 30mph in the city centre and heavy traffic the motor does all the work, no sound, no emissions, no fuel, polish the halo and look slightly smug. On the open road there is a little of 98bhp at your disposal. Not enough to win a Grand Prix but more

than enough to put the composed little Yaris through its paces. Halo slips slightly as you give in to temptation and put your foot down, putting the revised suspension, improved ride quality and well-weighted, sharper steering to the test. Moment of madness over you remember why you are driving a hybrid – clean, green save the planet, and your bank balance. But it's good to know this hybrid at least has a bit of the hot stuff



There's a new-look front and rear with redesigned bumpers, grille and light clusters

under the bonnet. Those who hanker after the red-hot stuff should get their names down for the GRMN inspired by Toyota's return to the World Rally Championship. It promises to be a humdinger.

Hybrid or standard, every Yaris is easy to manoeuvre and is flexible enough to make city centre parking, while not a doddle, certainly less stressful than in many other vehicles.

Standard prices start at £12,995 for the

Active trim which includes 15-inch steel wheels, automatic wipers, seven airbags, pre-collision system, lane departure warning, hill start assist, Bluetooth and power front windows.

Hybrid prices start at £16,495 which is a good chunk more than the standard version. Whether it is worth it to you will take careful calculations, totting up saved fuel costs, reduced road tax, BIK and the like.



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*Available on Excite and Exclusive models

Smile all the way into the sunset in sunny Swift Sport

By Carmel Stewart

If your idea of a fun drive is rev it up, release the handbrake and off you go, then the new Swift Sport is probably not the car for you.

Neatly packaged with some great exterior colours, the newest car in the excellent Suzuki line-up is lower, wider and lighter than the model it replaces and has a new engine, ie new to this car – which adds a fraction more bhp to the mix and a hefty 44 per cent more torque.

This same ‘Boosterjet’ engine is strutting its stuff under the bonnets of the Vitara and the S-Cross.

It is also a car which has to be worked a little to extract the best from its 1.4litre four-cylinder 140ps turbocharged petrol power pack via the precise six-speed manual box. Point and shoot is fine for the A to B but give it a push and you’ll be in the X to Z zone and laughing, or at least smiling, all the way into the sunset.

Behind that sporty steering wheel, sitting snugly in the (very) grippy sports seats, the Swift Sport proved immediately agile, comfortable and composed, requiring no time at all to adjust to any vagaries – there were none.

In town centres it was readily manoeuvrable and unflustered, while on the open road a touch of acceleration and a quick shift of the gears sent it into



Champion Yellow is expected to be a top choice fun mode. Responsive steering and a well set-up suspension added to the finely balanced experience.

And don't be deterred by the figures. Nought to 62mph in 8.1 seconds and a top speed of 130mph may not sound all that exciting but that is only part of the story. To experience the real thing, you need to get behind the wheel.

Suzuki has made the buying process very easy – one engine, one interior, six colours, no options, one price. Actually, this latter is not strictly true. The one price was £17,999 but, as a special introductory offer, Suzuki has knocked £1,500 off that until the end of June. Given the hugely generous spec list, £16,499 is getting close to a very good bargain.

The sporty interior is very comfortable and user friendly with metal pedals and red accents, plus six airbags, DAB radio, LED daytime running lights, Bluetooth, smartphone connectivity, rear view camera, front fog lamps, navigation, 17-inch alloys, all-round electric windows, lane departure warning, adaptive cruise control and high beam assist all fitted as standard.

The five body colours, whether metallic or solid, are included in the price, with Champion Yellow, which harks back to the Suzuki Works Junior Rally Car, expected to be top choice for many.

Hi-tech features include autonomous braking whereby laser sensors and a monocular camera determine when a collision is imminent. An alarm sounds and, if the driver fails to take action, the brakes are deployed in stages.

There is also a drowsiness alert which will sound a buzzer and flash lights should the vehicle start weaving at speeds of more than 37mph – lane dodgers beware.

For those who like to know just how speedy they really are, Suzuki has included an information graphic on the dash displaying the turbo boost, engine output, torque data and G-force tracking.



The Swift Sport proved immediately agile, comfortable and composed



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The Kodiaq vRS set a lap record for an SUV

Record-breaking lap for Kodiaq vRS

Emotion, dynamism and passion – Škoda combines all of these qualities with the 'vRS' initials. Even before its market launch, the Czech car manufacturer's first high performance SUV, the Škoda Kodiaq vRS, proves that it can hold its own on the most challenging race track in the world.

Racing driver Sabine Schmitz set the lap record for a seven-seater SUV at the Nürburgring's legendary Nordschleife in the Škoda Kodiaq vRS, highlighting the car's performance qualities. The Kodiaq vRS extends the range of vRS models in the Škoda line up.

Fuchsröhre, Schwedenkreuz and Karussell – these sections of track on the Nürburgring's legendary Nordschleife are well-known to motorsport fans all over the world. No other race track is more challenging and nowhere else are drivers and vehicles pushed to their limits like they are on the 20.832-km-long circuit in the Eifel region.

The Škoda Kodiaq vRS withstood the track conditions in the 'Green Hell' and, at 9:29.84 minutes, set the Nordschleife record for a seven-seater SUV.

Sabine Schmitz was at the wheel of the Škoda Kodiaq vRS during the record-breaking lap. Schmitz regularly participates in the long-distance championship (VLN) and the 24-hour race at the Nürburgring and in 1996, she became the first woman to win the 24-hour race and won again the following year.

Potential

"The Škoda Kodiaq vRS is great fun on the track," said Sabine Schmitz. "Škoda has made full use of its large SUV's potential with the Kodiaq vRS. I can certainly imagine that I'll be encountering the Kodiaq vRS regularly during my laps around the Nordschleife in future," Schmitz adds with a wink.

František Drábek, head of compact models at Škoda Auto and responsible for the development of the Kodiaq vRS, was also present at the successful record attempt. He points out that: "The Kodiaq vRS equally embodies the versatility and spaciousness of a family SUV as well as emotion and dynamism."

The new 2.0 BiTDI engine produces 239 PS. This allows for dynamic power delivery and excellent responsive qualities, even at low engine speed. Exhaust gases are purified by an SCR catalytic converter.

In the Kodiaq model range, the 2.0-litre BiTDI diesel engine is exclusively reserved for the vRS, and thanks to Dynamic Sound Boost, the high-torque diesel engine's power is immediately apparent. With adaptive Dynamic Chassis Control (DCC) including Driving Mode Select and progressive steering, the all-wheel-drive vehicle – which was still in its camouflage wrap during its appearance in the Eifel region – was perfectly equipped for its record-breaking lap at the Nordschleife.

The Škoda Kodiaq vRS will celebrate its world premiere in October of this year. It will be presented to the public for the first time at the 2018 Paris Motor Show.



Sabine Schmitz says the car was great fun

Are today's 'autonomous' cars really that clever?

By James Parker

Autonomous cars are coming. As exciting and/or terrifying as it may sound, there's a good chance that in the future we'll all be carting around in driverless vehicles.

It may sound like an age away, but driverless technology has made leaps and bounds over the past few years and we're seemingly getting very close to just hopping into a car that can take us anywhere, all by itself. At least, that's what manufacturers will want you to think.

"The technology is in advance of what the consumer understands and what the laws allow you to do," Matthew Avery, director of insurance research at vehicle research firm Thatcham Research, tells us. We've been invited down to Thatcham's test centre to experience first-hand some of the misconceptions of today's 'autonomous' technology.

The firm, along with the Association of British Insurers, is urging manufacturers to deliver more clarity on what constitutes a driverless feature and a driving assistance feature.

"Manufacturers advertising self-driving cars in their literature isn't a good thing" Avery continued, "I think the consumer needs to be brought in clearly step-by-step."

Our first practical demonstration brought us to the passenger seat of a Tesla Model S 75D – perhaps the car most known for its 'autonomous' capabilities today. Just before setting off with its Autopilot mode in full swing, we're alerted to the firm's advertising of the feature online.

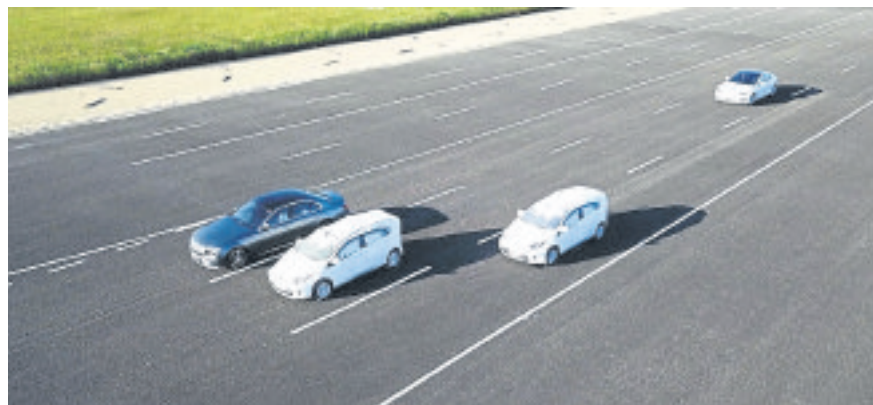
"Full Self-Driving Capability" reads the headline, with the promise of the car being able to match speed to traffic, automatically change lanes and self-park – among others. "It asks me once to put my hands on the wheel, and that's it for the rest of the journey" states Avery as we reach a motorway laid out on the runway in Autopilot mode – and a quick glance over to the dashboard proves he isn't wrong.

Expectedly, the Tesla easily navigates itself between the clear white lines ahead of us – even when encountering a slight bend – but the big problem arises when those lines come to a sudden stop. Lost, it tries to pick out a path to follow on the blank tarmac ahead of us before letting go and bringing itself to a gentle stop – but not without a rather jolty ride along the way.

"We like that it brings itself to a stop – what we don't like is that it hasn't observed any input during the process, putting a potentially distracted driver and those around at risk," Avery said, more calmly on this runway than likely would've been the case on a busy public highway.

It's not only Tesla with this sort of issue, though. In fact, what was up next proved to be much more dangerous.

We hop into a BMW 530e fitted with 'Driver Assist Plus', which the German manufacturer describing it as offering "partially autonomous driving" – 'partially' proving the



The technology is in advance of what the consumer understands and what the laws allow you to do

keyword. "It's better than the Tesla in that it asks every 15 seconds if my hands are on the wheel, but it'll take any movement – so I only have to give the wheel a wiggle" mentioned Avery, once again in the driver's seat.

We approach the same faux motorway as the Tesla – only this time as the car comes to the radius, it continues straight onwards – across the multiple lanes and sends us facing the prospect of hitting a concrete barrier at speed. Or it would have, had we not been on a runway.

Our final exercise for the day started with us being told: "you'll be safer in the back". Consider us excited.

So, into the rear of the Tesla, we climbed. We followed behind the BMW with Autopilot enabled, this time showing how it deals with a late lane change from the car in front. Our first run saw the BMW peel away into the right-hand lane at a good distance from stopped traffic ahead – allowing the Tesla to read a parked car (actually in this case, a soft Ford Fiesta-esque target built to mimic a car) early on, coming to a safe halt behind. A good start, we thought.

We approached the same situation again, only this time the 530e ahead made a very late manoeuvre at speed – one that could happen in the event of a sudden traffic jam. The Model S didn't have time to read the hazard itself – one that an attentive human could pick up – and flew straight into the back of the soft target.

It serves as a stark reminder though that we're still a long way from a full autonomous future – and just how informed the consumer needs to be on remaining attentive. It's poor enough happening at a closed course, but had that been on a public road? Chaos.



A BMW 530e fitted with 'Driver Assist Plus'

Full autonomy is coming and with the rate 'autonomous' technology on offer today is rapidly improving. For now, though, it's clear that we're a while off hopping into a car that we can pay no attention to while in the driver's seat – and Thatcham's message to manufacturers on clarity is something to be listened to.

Porsche creates 911 concept to honour 70 years of sports cars

Porsche is celebrating 70 years of its sports cars this year, and to honour that landmark achievement it has created this – the 911 Speedster. Let's take a look at the key aspects of this striking new car.

There's a reason why this concept looks a little bit retro in places. It's been designed to pay tribute to the very first Porsche 356 "No.1" Roadster, which gained its operating permit back in June of 1948.

The rear cover of the car is created from carbon-fibre, and covers a roll-over protection structure. It's been shaped into a 'double bubble' design, which is a design cue we first saw on the 1988 911 Speedster.

There's no convertible top, rather just a lightweight tonneau top that can protect the car from the rain when it's parked up. It also gets a 50s-style central fuel tank cap positioned in the centre of the car's bonnet. The headlights have intricate x-designs overlaid on top of them, in a nod to the process of taping up original

race car headlamps so as to avoid them shattering.

If you're after creature comforts in your drop-top Porsche, you may have to look elsewhere. To aid lightness, the Speedster Concept lacks satellite navigation, air-conditioning or even a radio. However, the cabin has been finished in high-quality 'Cognac' leather – so it's not all bare-bones here.

The Speedster utilises the chassis found in the current 911 GT3, and the whole car sits on classic-looking Fuchs design 21-inch alloy wheels.

The Speedster uses a flat-six engine with close to 500bhp, similar to that found in the current GT3. Here, it sends power to the rear wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox, and Porsche say that it is capable of revving up to 9,000rpm.

The exhaust system has also been heavily developed, with engineers adding titanium tailpipes for a sporty engine note.

There are chances that the Speedster will enter production, though Porsche isn't confirming this yet.



It's been designed to pay tribute to the very first Porsche 356 "No.1" Roadster

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07858 299305

SAME DAY SERVICE **NO FIX NO FEE!**

www.reliador.co.uk - reliadorgd@gmail.com
CALL US NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

Gardening

ROWAN TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES

- Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
- Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
- Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
- Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation

WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor,
N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)
All staff C.R.B. Certified

VISA MasterCard

Sandyfields TREE SERVICES

Commercial & Domestic

Tree Felling
Root Removal
Hedge Trimming
Wood Chipping
Pruning & Shaping
Landscaping
Fence Installation

Call Roger on...
M: 07768 392 009 T: 01902 882 115
www.sandyfields.co.uk

EST 1985

KINGS Garden services

- GRASS CUTTING
- JET WASHING
- HEDGE CUTTING
- GARDEN CLEARANCE
- WEED KILLING
- TURFING AND LAWNS

FREE GRASS FEED WITH FIRST CUT

Tel: 07848873825
info@kingsgardenservices.co.uk
DBS checked, and public liability insurance available upon request

GORNAL TREE & GARDEN SERVICES

- Conifers reduced & trimmed
- Crown reductions • Tree Felling
- Turfing • Fencing • Hedge Trimming
- Jungles & gardens cleared
- Fully Insured • NPTC Qualified
- Stump removals

Call for a FREE QUOTE
07860 851 017 or 01384 830 384

Landscapers

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping

Call now for a FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or 07539 887144

Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Loft Ladders

The Loft Ladder Man

Loft Ladders fitted from **£120** inclusive

New or enlarged hatches
T & G Flooring, Lighting

Call Luke on
07779 118807 or 01384 833025
lukejs248@gmail.com

like our brand new facebook page @ [theloftladderman](https://www.facebook.com/theloftladderman)

We will beat any like for like quote

Fully Insured

Plumbing & Heating

STUARTS PLUMBING AND HEATING

Tel: 01384 326360 Mob: 07708 731610
www.stuarts-plumbing.co.uk

- ✓ Central Heating & Boilers
- ✓ Power Flushing
- ✓ Boiler Servicing & Repairs
- ✓ Kitchens & Bathrooms
- ✓ All other aspects of plumbing work undertaken

Call for a **FREE no obligation quote** and for all other offers

Vaillant Worcester Bosch safe

Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Furniture

DOUBLE WARDROBE with mirror, dressing table, £40. Small round table, dark wood £10. 07719 299463.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Brixton on 07834 489558.

HAND OPERATED Singer sewing machine. £30 Offers. 07719 299463.

INFLATEABLE BATHING cushion, used once, cost £600, would accept £300. 01902 652115.

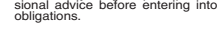
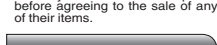
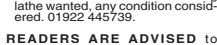
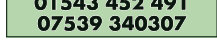
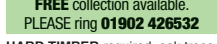
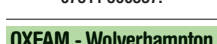
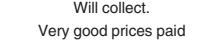
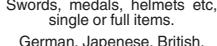
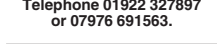
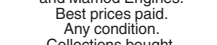
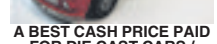
RECLINE ARMCHAIR dual motor, nearly new £150. Small Invarcare disability scooter, good condition £100. 01384 941223.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 / 01384 429166
01543 439095 / 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

ALAN JONES
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
We have watched them all come and go
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

SOUTH STAFFS BUILDERS
OVER 30 YEARS EXP
GARDEN WALLS, SLABING,
CONSERVATORY BASES, PORCHES ETC.
01902 897995
07890 628868

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Curtains

SAMREX CURTAINS FACTORY CLEARANCE
Top Quality
Ready-Made Curtains
plus Roll Ends,
Cushion Covers
and much much more
EVERYTHING MUST GO!
24 Church Lane,
Wolverhampton WV2 4BU
Open: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm
01902 427733

Domestic Cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

Drain Clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER
Blockages cleared fast.
Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

Driveways & Patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
• RESIN DRIVES FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

Electrical Services

A BARGAIN REWIRE, fuseboards, cctv, alarms, showers, NICEIC.
01902 842739 / 07783 471949.

ALL ELECTRICAL work from a switch to a rewire. Insured, free quote 01902 755707 / 07958 627434.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 313106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICE-REPAIRED
Landlord certs. All areas.
J&E HEATING
01902 562664
07969 687832

GAS SERVICES

• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/
07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/fitt. Free quote: 31 Bank St. WY10 9DU. 01902 723910

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael-Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Guttering

No Job Too Small Free Quotes
GUTTERS & FASCIAE AND GUTTER CLEANING.
ALL GARDEN WORK UNDERTAKEN
T: 01902 655578 | M: 07954 607991

Handyman Services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

LOCK & CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, small job specialist. Call 01902 785700 or 07934 460864.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavement. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172941 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

Landscaping

J D's Landscaping and Building
Bricklaying and all paving work
Fencing and gates
Conservatory and porch bases
FREE QUOTES
Call John 01384 326405 or 07719 807564

Oven Cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com
BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07732 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

Paving

MB PAVING

Your local DRIVEWAY & BLOCK PAVING SPECIALISTS
Unbeatable on QUALITY & PRICE
We are a Sandwell registered company!
Working throughout the Black Country & surrounding areas for over 25 years
A name you can trust **NO DEPOSITS!**
All work **GUARANTEED!**
Call today for a **FREE** no obligation quote or Find us on Facebook
0121 520 1352 - 07977327715
"THE BEST AROUND" DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS.

Painters/Decorators

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 years experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers, Blockages 07976 012468

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
0966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A CHEAPER REMOVAL
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35

Student/OAP Discounts

Roofing

25% OFF
SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all pointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

MG ROOFING

Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE
01904 237577
01902 405746
07719 671845

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

COLLIE JACK RUSSELL PUPS 4 boys, black and white. £60 each. 07722 663466. Dudley.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton



MADDIE

Ten years young, pretty black and white Border Collie girl.

Good with other dogs.

Also other Border Collies.

For more information call

07977 390144.

PEGGY

Nine year old Labrador cross Boxer.

Desperate for the right home for this lovely good natured girl who loves people.

She needs to be an only dog, she is well behaved.

Could you be the special person that gives this lovely girl a home for life.

For more information call

07977 390144. 07738 643712.

SMALL ANIMAL hutch with run, ideal for Guinea Pig, small Rabbit, as new. £30. 030. 01902 219696.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

5 Business & Farming

business directory

Accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

BURROWS CROFT, single person studio flat to let, deposit required, age 45 plus. No DSS. 01902 494500.

PENN 1 bed self contained flat, CH, DG, no deposit, housing benefit over 35. £85pw. 07900 156313.

SINGLE FLAT suit mature Gent, refurbished throughout, all up to spec, Gornal area. £90pw. Call Nathan on 07715 603357.

Accommodation Wanted

LOOKING FOR private rentable flat, Wolverhampton area, 40 year old, in receipt of DSS, with small dog. Please call 07859 134914.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

WANT TO SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST?

WE BUY TODAY

— COMPLETE IN AS LITTLE AS 7 DAYS
— HASSLE-FREE & FEE-FREE
— ANY HOUSE SITUATION OR CONDITION

"They take all the stress out of selling a house. They are considerate, understanding, helpful and supportive. Everything was straightforward and they eased a difficult time in our lives."
- Carolyn J., Verified Client

Rated 4.9/5.0
250 verified customer reviews

Contact us today for a free, no-obligation offer
0800 298 3140
www.webuytoday.co.uk

WE BUY TODAY

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call **01384 913 543**

or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

Drivers

7.5 and 10 TONNE DRIVERS
minimum 5 years experience
General Haulage 0121 557 1776

CLASS 2 HOOK LIFT & SKIP
DRIVERS required. Must have at
least 12 months experience.
Please Contact ECL SKIPS
(DUDLEY) 01384 213332.

DELIVERY DRIVERS AND
DRIVERS MATE REQUIRED
Immediate start good rates of
pay. Contact 07538 107105 or
07712 880831

Full Time General

MULTI UTILITY TEAMS
Must be qualified and experienced
for mains and service installation.
Skills required: Digger and dumper
tickets, Full UK driving licence,
EUSR SHEA - Gas and Water,
EUSR - Water Hygiene. Please call
Julie Totney on 01384 238830

BOOM TRUCK DRIVER

£8.00 p/h (£10.40 OT) + £1 per vehicle
load bonus

40 hour week, 2pm - Finish + Some
Sat/Sun, B/H

Are you/Do you have:

- Experience of operating a Boom Truck
- Experience of operating FLTs
- Qualification/certification of Boom Truck and/or FLT
- Knowledgeable in warehouse operations (picking/packing)
- Highly organised
- Able to prioritise work

To apply email your CV to
nathan.smith@mnarecruitment.co.uk

For more information contact
Nathan on 01902 319845

8

Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

WORKING TOGETHER

Creating Community Chances in
Bilston East, Darlaston South,
Princes End and St Thomas's



Free training

Advice and guidance

Mentoring

Community events

Volunteering

Placements

Job matching

LOOKING FOR WORK?

JOBS FAIR

Tipton Sports Academy Social Club
Wednesbury Oak Road,
Tipton, DY4 0BS.

Wednesday 4th July 2018

11am - 2pm

Are you Unemployed?

Black Country Employers, Vacancies,
Self Employment,
Information, Advice and Guidance.

Call Dawn for more details on
07977 426586

AUDI A1 1.6TDi 3-DR SPORTBACK

2012, 37,000 miles, two tone, black, grey leather seats, Sat Nav, optional extra 2 tone alloy wheels, spare key, daytime running lights, stop start system, radio/CD, AUX, blue-tooth, electric front windows, multi function steering wheel, air con, full Audi service history, MoT March 1, 2019, one previous owner, excellent condition inside and out, free road tax, first to see will buy.

£7,950

Any questions
01902 850018 /
07968 532995.



BMW 1 SERIES

2013, 78,000 miles, White, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, auto, central locking, one owner, pas, diesel, Alloys, CD, excellent condition.

£8,500 ono
07479 009291.



VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3CDTi 2007, 85,000 miles, abs, electric windows, long MoT, diesel £30 a year to tax, very good condition
£1,699
07879 403302.



BMW 1 SERIES

127,000 miles, 2.0 diesel, manual, 5 seats, 5 doors, MoT has recently finished, full BMW service history, economical vehicle with cheap road tax, 2 previous owners, female driver, immaculate condition.

£3,250

07466 114543.



FIAT 500

2011, 55,600 miles, Green metallic, EW, stop/start, AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof, CD player, CL, MOT, 1 previous owner, alloys, tinted rear windows, spare wheel, tool kit, FSH.

£3,995ono.

07918 621300. (no text)



FORD B-MAX

Limited Edition, 16 plate, 1388 engine, 10,000 miles, silver metallic, black roof, black alloys, petrol, blue tooth, radio / CD, aircon, front fog lights, electric window, sliding back doors, Immaculate condition.

£7,800

07788 684373.



MERCEDES SLK200 KOMPRESSOR

2007, 59,500 miles, cubanite silver, convertible, fsh, MoT, leather interior, well looked after.

£6,100.

07967 237838.



PORSCHE BOXER

2.7 FSH, MoT till January, 89,000 miles, new clutch and bearing, new battery.

First to see will buy.

£4,600.

07946 383970.

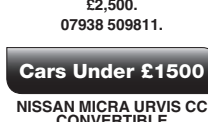


VAUXHALL TIGRA B 1.4 EXCLUSIVE

Full leather. 2007. Immaculate. Only 26,000 miles. Second lady driver.

£2,500.

07938 509811.



Cars Under £1500

NISSAN MICRA URVIS CC CONVERTIBLE

1.4, 06 reg, MoT, blue, glass roof works perfectly - used daily,
£750 ono.
07415 013799.

MUST BE SEEN

FIAT PANDA

2010, 53,000 miles, two former keepers, service history, £30 per year road tax. MoT December 2018.

£1,495

07923 132859.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

MINI ONE

Black with white bonnet stripes, 04 reg, 1.6 petrol, MoT March 2019, 92k miles, lady owner.

£1,295 ono.

07586 347777.

4X4

NISSAN X TRAIL SPORT

2003.

Low miles.

Diesel.

£1,075 ono.

07547 566395.

BARGAIN

ROVER 214 Si

1990, 184,500 miles, white.

£500 ono.

Please call
0121 501 3078.



VAUXHALL VECTRA DESIGN

2004, auto, 63,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, central locking, cruise control, CD player.

£950 ono.

01902 833229.

Commercial Vehicles

LOOK

FORD TRANSIT VAN

125T 280 FWD February 63, 117,000 miles, history, service, very good condition.

£5,450

07805 667478



VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7 Di

03, Isuzu engine, 115k, long MoT, new tyres, excellent condition.

£995.

07791 113080.

Driving Tuition

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £50, 10 lessons £100. £21 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

Scrap Vehicles

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

mainline Salvage & Recovery
• SCRAP CARS WANTED
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Frankie goes to the Black Country team

FORMER British and Commonwealth champion Frankie Gavin has signed a one-year management contract with Black Country Boxing Promotions. The 32-year-old held the British and Commonwealth titles between 2012 and 2015 and challenged Kell Brook for the IBF welterweight title in 2015. As an amateur, Birmingham fighter Gavin won a gold medal at the 2007 World Championships, becoming England's first ever winner of that event. He also won lightweight gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games. "I'm delighted to have Frankie on board," said BCB's head of boxing Errol Johnson. "He's one of the most talented boxers that Britain has produced and I believe there are still some very big fights out there for him. "Frankie knows what we expect of him, and vice-versa, so I'm relishing the opportunity to get him to where we both think he should be." Gavin said: "I'm glad to be signing with Errol. I have known him a long time and I know he can guide me to a few more successful nights in my career. There's some big fight news coming soon so watch this space."

Midlands Leagues structure confirmed

THE Midlands Leagues structure for next season has been confirmed after an RFU panel dismissed Melbourne's appeal against relegation from Midlands One West. Melbourne will play in Midlands Two East North next season with ten North Midlands clubs in the 14-club Midlands One West. Kidderminster Carolians have been level-transferred from Midlands Two West North to Midlands Two West South where they will face ten clubs from Warwickshire. Places have been left open for Oswestry, who are considering returning to the Midlands Leagues from the North where there has been league restructuring, and also Dixonians. Birmingham & Solihull, who won the Midlands Premier title last season, will play in National Two South next season with Stourbridge remaining in National Two North and Birmingham Moseley in National One. Three North Midlands clubs, Birmingham Barbarians, Five Ways OE and Dudley Wasps will continue to play their rugby outside of the league structure.

Baggies face Hatters in Carabao opener

ALBION have been drawn at home to League One Luton Town in the first round of the Carabao Cup. The Baggies enter the competition in the first round next season after finishing bottom of the Premier League. Villa are away at League Two Yeovil Town, while Walsall travel to League Two Tranmere Rovers. It means Saddlers' new striker Andy Cook makes an immediate return to his former club. "I'm a little bit shocked," Cook said. "I've only just left and I didn't think it'd be that quick that I'd go back to play against them. "It'll be nice to go back and see what reaction they give me." Fixtures will take place during the week commencing Monday, August 13. Extra-time has been removed, so the ties go straight to penalties, reverting to the traditional alternating format, if scores are level after 90 minutes. VAR will also be used in all League Cup fixtures played at Premier League stadiums next term.



David, front left, and former team-mates celebrate 40 years since winning The Derrick Robins Trophy at Lord's

Danescourt mourning loss of legend Barnes

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

TRIBUTES have been paid to Wolverhampton Cricket Club legend David Barnes following his death at the age of 80.

As a player, captain, chairman and president, Barnes was with the club for a stunning 65 years – making him the longest-serving member in their 183-year history.

He led the Danescourt men to victory in the final of the National Knockout – then known as the DH Robins Cup – at Lord's in 1973, beating Maidstone-based Mote, with Barnes scoring the winning runs.

Barnes, from Tettenhall, played 'well into his fifties' and returned to Lord's for the final of the competition in 1988, which Wolves lost to Enfield in a replayed game at Edgbaston after the original tie had been washed out.

Committee member David Lycett – who been with the club for 60 years, also as a player and chairman – was a close friend of Barnes's, and said: "He was here with us at the club for 65 years. He went to Tettenhall College and joined the club in his teens.

Regard

"David took us to Lords in '73 for the final of the National Knockout, and that was a really big deal. I wasn't playing for the firsts then but we all went down to watch and it was a great day.

"We weren't in the Birmingham League at the time. We were still in the old Midland Club Championship, which we won year in and year out.

"The competition had only been going for a few years and we were the first team from the Midlands to win it, beating Mote. He then went again in '88 as a player, under the late Pete Jones – and not many can say they've been able to go and play there, at Lord's twice. He played well into his 50s. He was a fine cricketer and a fine supporter of our club. I held



David hits the winning runs at Lord's

him in the highest regard." Barnes, as well as playing for Wolverhampton, also turned out for Shropshire in the minor counties, Worcestershire's seconds and Staffordshire's over-50s. He was a batsman but also useful with the ball, with his off-spin.

He went with the Midlands Cricket Club Conference to Australia in the 70s and captained the Wolverhampton Cricket Association side which toured the West Indies in 1976.

"David was fully committed to the club. His two sons, Richard and James, played for the club too – James has retired now, Richard still turns out for Bromsgrove and I'm sure his son plays, so cricket is in their family," said Lycett. "He was a personal friend of mine, we went on holidays together. He was just wonderful. He will be greatly missed."

Club president Geoff Hopkinson was also part of



David with a copy of the iconic picture

the 1973 national knockout trophy-winning side. He said: "I was the opening bat in that team, David was a very fine off-spinner – he was always among the wickets. He always fielded first slip too.

"That day, we were at the home of cricket and it was an honour. We had a very good side, an exceptional side, which was led with aplomb – David was a thinking cricketer. He played until his late 50s and when we were playing together, we would have been playing about 60 matches a year. I took over as president from him, he did a hell of a lot behind the scenes as well. Without characters like him, it's hard for clubs to survive. He pointed the way."

Chairman Mike Elphick added: "Having recently become chairman of the club, I was aware of David's long and considerable contribution both on and off the field. He will be sadly missed."

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Hagley move step closer to a Lord's final

HAGLEY and Pelsall are starting to dream of Lord's after powering into the last 32 of the National Village Knockout.

Both sides made light work of their regional showdowns at the weekend with Pelsall easing to a nine-wicket win at Quatt in the Shropshire, Staffs and West Midlands group while Hagley saw off Astwood Bank by seven wickets in the Worcestershire showdown.

Pelsall now face a trip to Northamptonshire-based Barby – who play in the Warwickshire League – on Sunday and skipper Danny Pennell believes they have some unfinished business after being beaten in the semi-finals of the competition by Woodhouse Grange in 2015. "This is a competition the players look forward to and if we continue to get good availability then hopefully we can go deep again," said Pennell. "To play at Lord's would be massive. Having had such a good run in 2015 before losing in the semi-finals, we feel we have a bit of unfinished business."

Pennell (3-20) and Dan Whale (3-29) helped dismiss Quatt for 153 before an unbeaten 71 from Todd Henderson and 57no from Alex Jones saw them home.

Hagley have already tasted success at Lord's this year, with their side winning the ECB Indoor title, and now they are chasing a return.

They restricted Astwood Bank to 181-9 in 40 overs with skipper Michael Stead picking up 4-31.

Stead then led his side home with 47 not out, gaining support from Jon McDonnell (43) and James Trinham (35).

Kilbee's unbeaten 57 eases Halesowen to an easy victory

IN a low-scoring game at North End Lane, Halesowen defeated Barnards Green by eight wickets in the Birmingham League Division One after dismissing their hosts for 88. Charlie Hartley took 5-29 and Mashariaf Shazad polished off the tail with four wickets for one run in 6.2 overs. An unbeaten 57, from 54 balls, from Ed Kilbee eased Halesowen to an easy win.

Shropshire skipper Steven Leach hit 94 to see Shifnal to a three-wicket win over Himley.

Jamie Turner (57) and Adam Finch (49) dug Himley out of a hole with a seventh wicket partnership of 85 which took them to 217-9 after Leach's county colleague Ross Aucott had taken 5-72. Chris Boroughs finished with 4-56 for Himley.

Stourbridge's 100-run success at Pelsall takes them to the top of the division three table. Nathan Crudeli (79 not out) and Juhfar Johal (65) saw Stourbridge to 239-5, with Dan Wale taking 3-71 for the home side. Despite a 64 from 49 balls from opener Tom Boyd in reply, Pelsall were all out for 139 with Johal claiming 5-17 and Hasnain Nawaz 3-14.

Walking football pair to play for country



Pete Gibbons, left, and John Cooper

TWO members of Dudley-based Hartshill Strollers Walking Football Club have been chosen to play for England.

Striker John Cooper has been picked for the Over 60 squad, and goalkeeper Pete Gibbons for the over-50s. Both are set to make their debuts for their country later this year. The double call-up is a remarkable achievement for the club formed less than four years ago.

Cooper and Gibbons have made it through to their respective 21-man squads after trials involving more than 250 hopefuls from up and down the country. Both now

have their sights set on the first European Cup next year – and the inaugural World Cup in 2020.

Cooper, a 62-year-old commissioning engineer, of Woodcross, Wolverhampton, is one of the country's leading club goal-scorers, having once netted 14 times in a single tournament.

Key account manager Gibbons, aged 55, of Ettingshall Park, Wolverhampton, is regarded as one of the best shot-stoppers in walking football and won his England place despite having played in the trials with a broken finger.

OH MAN! RIDER ON A TT SPREE

A WIN, a podium and two top-six finishes – once again the Isle of Man TT was a successful hunting ground for Brierley Hill rider Michael Rutter.

Despite ending a stunning two weeks of racing with a breakdown, Rutter played his part in one of the most scintillating fortnights in recent memory.

With records tumbling in all-bar-one race, the 46-year-old more than played his part in the gripping action by taking victory in the TT Zero race – setting a new lap record, with an average speed of 121.824mph on an electric bike, on his way to securing his sixth TT win on the Honda Mugen.

With a third-placed finish in the lightweight on his Bathams Paton, and top-six finishes in the opening superbike race and last week's superstock – both on Bathams BMW 1000RRs – he entered Friday's Senior TT back on his superbike full of confidence but was forced to retire from the race on lap four.

Lapping

Perfect weather conditions greeted the riders as they set out around the 37.73-mile mountain course for the final six-lap race of the fortnight.

Rutter had slotted into ninth place after lapping at an average speed of 128.432mph but then slipped to 11th with a 126.606mph effort.

After pitting for fuel and new rear tyre at the end of the second, he continued in the race but was down in 15th after a 121.465mph lap, so he decided to pit again to see if his mechanics could rectify the problem.

Rutter said: "I kept plugging away but the bike was getting worse and worse. When I pitted at the end of lap four, we found out the steering damper bracket had broken."

"It wasn't possible to repair it and even if we had I'd have lost so much time I'd have been way down the order, so there was little option other than to retire. But, overall, I've got to be happy with a first, third, fifth and sixth from the four races I've finished."

Table tennis ace in England call



Following her latest wins over top seeds Charlotte Bardsley, 15, has been recruited by England

STOURBRIDGE table tennis ace Charlotte Bardsley has landed another England call.

The talented teenager has been named in the national squad for the European Youth Championships in Romania next month.

The 15-year-old will travel to Cluj-Napoca for the event, which runs July 15-24 and features team and individual competitions.

The latest representative honour follows her inclusion in the senior squad for the World Cup in London earlier this year where she was called up to sample the atmosphere of a top competition. Bardsley will head to Ro-

mania in confident mood following two more impressive individual successes.

She 'upgraded' from the under-16 to under-19 title at the Butterfly National School Individual Championships. Bardsley won the under-16 title last year and this time took home the top age category crown when she overcame Mollie Patterson 3-1 in the final.

Bardsley dominated the PG Mutual Cadet & Junior National Championships in Wolverhampton. She only dropped one set in the junior girls' singles when already 3-0 up in the final, beating fourth seed Jasmin Wong 4-1.

Rivalries are renewed in battle for belt

MATT Sen and Josh Burke will renew their rivalry in a Black Country battle for the eight-round British Challenge cruiserweight title.

Sen has been paired with Burke for a title fight at the Venue, Dudley, on Saturday, July 7.

Unbeaten Sen will also put his unbeaten record on the line against Burke, who on a previous challenge last year, was stopped in four rounds by Dilly Singh.

Burke, 32, has additionally been beaten by Russell Henshaw and Courtney Richards on points as a pro, but has beaten Lee Jones and Rolandas Cesna over-the-distance.

Sen – full name Matthew Sennett – is, like Burke, from Wolverhampton. He's originally from Heath Town, but now lives in Oldbury. The 30-year-old has recorded three points wins since turning over against Dmitriy Kalinovskij, Henshaw and Kevin Williams.

Six undercard bouts have been scheduled to support the main event featuring Danny Ball, of Kingswinford, Josh Miller, from Dudley, Connor Lee Jones, from Brierley Hill and Brummies Aaron Lovell and debutant Daryl Pearce.

Also in action will be Wolverhampton's Kirstie Bavington, who will be looking to bounce back after battling to a draw on her paid bow. The 25-year-old could not be parted from the experienced Borislava Goronova.

Tickets are £35 or £50 ringside, available by calling 07976 283 157.

Cradley skipper is out with broken arm

CRADLEY HEATHENS skipper Adam Roynon is facing a spell on the sidelines after crashing while riding for Plymouth last week.

The Heathens club legend was taken to hospital during during the Plymouth Devils' narrow defeat at the Isle of Wight Warriors.

And it was later revealed he had suffered a broken humerus bone in his arm, as well as a dislocated shoulder.

No timescale on his absence has been announced, though the Heathens do not race again until July 2 when they take on Birmingham Brummies in a home National Trophy clash at Monmore.

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